



# 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

Paul A. Kakuris, President

June, 2006

*Luncheon Reservations*

*Saturday, June 17*

*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 June 14:*

Lorri London 773 271-493

Karen Jump 847 498-5710

ildunesland@aol.com

*Thank you, Ellen!*

Dunesland would like to thank life-long Dunesland member Ellen Powell for the inspiring slide presentation on her experiences as a volunteer nurse in Africa at our April meeting. It was a very heartfelt view of the time she spent there.

*Invite Your Friends to Len Messineo's Beautiful Presentation*

## *“Photographing Florida and Its Birds”*

*June 17 at the Illinois Beach State Park Resort at Noon*

Len Messineo is a dedicated nature and wildlife photographer whose expertise and knowledge developed after his retirement from his manufacturing business in 1992. He has won numerous awards and citations in the Chicago area and was awarded Photographer of the Year honors in the highly respected Riverwoods Nature Photographic Society where he also served as President. The Chicago Area Camera Clubs Associa-

tion also recognized Len's accomplishments with many awards, including First Place in the Nature Photography competition several times and a special achievement citation, TOPS. He was the recipient of the 2003 Kohout Nature Award, one of the most prestigious awards of the Association.

Len's new program is a continuation of his highly praised presenta-

tions on Florida's wealth of bird life. It is now enhanced with emphasis on the state's scenery and environment. Birds within selected groupings are compared, often humorously. One section, “The Big Bills,” offers the similarities and differences of four unique species: the ibis, spoonbill, pelican, and woodstork. A finale of stunning images of birds engaged in surprising and whimsical behavior concludes a beautiful presentation.

## *New Asbestos Found at the Park; Dunesland Files Complaint with IAG, IEPA, & Lake County Health Department*

### *IDNR Again Caught Lying to Press*

The Camp Logan area, which contains demolition debris from raised homes at the north end of the park, was found to be highly contaminated with asbestos-containing debris. The debris is friable (asbestos fibers released when object is touched). Dunesland immediately sent a letter of com-

plaint to the IAG Lisa Madigan and another to the IEPA and Lake County Health Department. Health and safety asbestos expert Jeffery Camplin and Paul Kakuris visited the site several times, taking videos and photographs of the careless and irresponsible con-

tamination that the state had caused.

The Waukegan News Sun, the Sun Times, and the Lakeland Journals wrote stories showing the pervasiveness of the scattered asbestos debris and irresponsible cleanup attempts by IDNR and its consultant PSI. The asbestos was stacked or... (p2)



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!

*New Website*

*Asbestosbeach.com*

<http://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

### New Asbestos Found at the Park (continued from p.1)

consolidated, left out in the open or improperly wrapped and left untagged. The public has been allowed to enter this area and be unwittingly exposed to this fractured, weather, friable material. Unfortunately, IDNR's consultant, PSI, has disregarded established protocols and allowed this improper and incomplete cleanup.

IDNR attempted to cover-up the magnitude of the asbestos contamination., misrepresenting to the press that the asbestos was cleaned up. In fact, asbestos still contaminates the area; large, visible pieces are still spread throughout the one square mile area. IDNR was found to have misrepresented to the press previously and has

had to apologize for their misstatements.

Unfortunately, the public officials involved are continuing to cover-up the dangerous asbestos issues that loom over the area. The IAG, IEPA, and the Lake County Health Department have remained silent since the complaint was filed in May. We expect that the IAG will respond and demand a proper clean-up. If the IAG's office ignores complaints that document violations of statutes and regulations and does nothing to resolve those violations, let someone else who will enforce the statutes become the IAG.

### Dunesland Files First Amendment Suit in Federal Court

Dunesland has withdrawn its First Amendment suit in state court in Waukegan, refiling it in federal court in Chicago.

Dunesland's Loop attorney Donald L. F. Metzger felt that this was more of a federal issue and belonged in federal court.

IDNR blocked Dunesland from distributing our Asbes-

tos Safety warning flyer almost two years ago. IDNR had removed their own public asbestos warning flyer that they had promised to distribute because that flyer put attention on the asbestos which they wanted to ignore. We attempted to fill the gap with our own flyer; IDNR tried to block Dunesland's efforts in order to cover-up their own incompetence and bungling. The

fact that IDNR did not want the flyer distributed at the park is indicative of their own lack of concern about public health and safety. They are more concerned about covering up the reasons why the asbestos is at the park in the first place, which is the negligence of state officials in discharging or facilitating the discharging of asbestos at our beautiful park.

### Seeking a Resolution to Asbestos on Our Shorelines

by Jeffery C. Camplin, CSP, CPEA

As a safety and health professional and asbestos expert, I have volunteered my time on behalf of Lake County citizens to obtain resolution to the reoccurrence of asbestos on our shorelines that has plagued this area for decades. Many characterize those that care for the environment as "tree huggers" who will never be satisfied. I look at things a little differently. I have been a resident of Lake County, Illinois since 1987. I have taken my three children and my wife to Illinois Beach State Park many times. In fact, I can still hear my wife saying after each visit, "There is sand everywhere. It's in our car, it's in the kids' hair and ears, it's on the

blankets and in their shoes, it's even in the laundry room." Does this sound familiar to anyone? Little did I know that sand was not all that we had brought home with us from our visit to the beach.

In April 2003, a chance phone call changed my life and belief system forever; I met Paul Kakuris, President of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society. I walked along the Illinois Beach State Park with him and saw small, flat pieces of asbestos debris that children had constructed into a small dollhouse. The kids were playing with each other, using sticks as dolls that inhabited the tiny asbestos hut they had constructed out of the weathered debris. I had to ask, "Why are there chunks of

asbestos debris on a public beach for children to handle?" What was even more curious were the signs at the Park that informed families that asbestos had been found on the beach and if found, to call the Park office. I wondered why the Park was putting the responsibility on citizens to find and report asbestos debris discovered on public beaches. Better yet, why was this beach open to the public?

I reviewed thousands of state and federal freedom of information documents obtained and supplied to me by Paul A. Kakuris. He had been battling government officials over this since 1998 and asked me to look into the...

... issue of asbestos at the Park. In June 2003, I released a report, now known as The Camplin Report, which documented how asbestos debris had ended up along the shoreline of Illinois Beach State Park. The Illinois Attorney General formed an Asbestos Task Force in July 2003 to investigate my findings. At the time, I thought my work was done, however Paul knew better.

Unfortunately, the Asbestos Task Force was made up of the individuals and agencies I had found had created the asbestos problems at the Park in the first place. When Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was asked by Mr. Kakuris to allow public involvement or public oversight of her Asbestos Task Force, we were denied access. The Attorney General, advocate for open government, ruled her “secret” Asbestos Task Force was exempt from the Illinois Open Meetings Act. This now “secret” Task Force performed “skewed” testing in 2004 designed to downplay chunks of asbestos at our Park. Unfortunately, for the “secret” Asbestos Task Force, the 2005 interim report findings confirmed what I had found in 2003: Microscopic asbestos fibers were statistically elevated above background levels at Waukegan Harbor, North Point Marina, and Illinois Beach State Park. This skewed report also couldn't hide the high asbestos levels at Oak Street Beach in Chicago. The draft interim UIC Asbestos Task Force report discovered the asbestos contamination near IBSP had spread down current over the years to communities to the south. To save face, the interim recommendations made by the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health found the beaches safe (as long as asbestos debris that washes onshore was not handled). The report found no risk from airborne asbestos fibers without taking even one air sample.

This rigged state fabricated report has not been peer reviewed or finalized. It may never be finalized since it created more problems that it was designed to solve. This unfinished report cost taxpayers around \$250,000. A secret air monitoring study was started during the week of May 22, 2006 after nine straight days of rain. I wrote to the Centers for Disease Control and strongly urged them to delay the testing until the hot, dry, dusty months of July and August, instead of the damp month of May. They refused. When will the government officials stop covering up a chronic asbestos problem using useless and expensive reports that will not prevent parents, children and their pets from inhaling toxic asbestos fibers that are obviously still in beach sand?

Last June, I visited Waukegan beach for the first time and found one of the largest chunks of asbestos debris I had found to date. The News Sun photographer who snapped a few pictures of it flinched as a fiber became airborne in the wind. The City of Waukegan was notified. Was anyone in Waukegan warned of this hazard prior to the busy July 4 weekend? Of course not! From Waukegan beach, you can see the hill of asbestos debris to the north at the former Johns-Manville manufacturing site, which contains 3 million cubic yards of asbestos waste. I discovered that the USEPA has allowed unfiltered asbestos polluted water from inside of this asbestos waste site to enter directly into Lake Michigan. I reviewed the discharge measurements maintained by the EPA and calculated that over a trillion asbestos fibers were entering Lake Michigan each day Johns-Manville released this pollution into the Lake. Since the early 1990's, thousands of trillions of asbestos fibers were released with USEPA permission into our lake just to the north of Waukegan beach. These fibers wash onto the public shoreline, dry, and become an airborne hazard for unwitting citizens. Other fibers settle to the lake-bottom where they are churned up during storms, heavy wave action, and dredging operations. Again, they wash onto the shoreline, dry, and become an airborne hazard. Now these same asbestos-contaminated sediments in Waukegan Harbor are being dredged as part of the OMC Superfund Site Cleanup. The USEPA claims these asbestos-contaminated sediments can be used as clean fill to save money.

I have challenged this position for the following reasons: I believe that the USEPA Region 5 has allowed the Johns-Manville Superfund site to contaminate the sediments in Waukegan Harbor, the Harbor Approach Channel, and the Harbor Advanced Maintenance area with trillions upon trillions of microscopic asbestos fibers discharged from this site. I believe it is the responsibility of the USEPA to figure out how they, along with other responsible parties (polluters), will pay for this asbestos contamination to be removed from our public shoreline. Their bungling of the Johns-Manville Superfund site would also make them responsible for the asbestos-contaminated dredged sediments that were taken from in front of the Johns-Manville Superfund site and dumped on and offshore of Illinois Beach State Park in the 1990's by ComEd/Midwest Generation and the Army Corps of Engineers. Remember in 1997-98 when the Park was closed so massive amounts of asbestos debris could be removed? The dredging and dumping of asbestos-contaminated sediments in the early 1990's appears to be the source of the asbestos and beach closing. I believe this is why the USEPA is trying to convince anyone who will listen that the lake-bottom sediments from the Manville site to Waukegan Harbor are not contaminated with asbestos.

Various agencies, including the USEPA and City of Waukegan have insinuated that the microscopic asbestos contamination found on and offshore of the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline is 1) naturally occurring, 2) comes from asbestos-containing vehicle brake systems, 3) comes from the cement asbestos waterlines carrying our water supply, or 4) comes from demolition debris from old homes near the North Point Marina site. The secretly performed Illinois Attorney General asbestos task force interim 2005 asbestos study confirmed the presence of statistically elevated levels of *amosite* asbestos in the Waukegan Harbor area lake-bottom sediments. This type of asbestos mineral is not found in vehicle brake systems. This type of asbestos mineral is not found in flooring or home siding materials. This type of asbestos mineral is not found in cement asbestos water lines. This asbestos mineral is certainly not naturally occurring in Illinois. How did manufacturing grade amosite asbestos fibers that were mined in South Africa end up in Waukegan Harbor? The answer seems pretty obvious to me. I'm sure it is also pretty obvious to the independent investigators reviewing all of the complaints I have made against local, state and federal agencies and officials over the last three years.

Lake County Illinois has an asbestos cancer rate for the rarest cancer Mesothelioma over seven times the expected rate. I was distressed when I became aware of several individuals in Lake County that have the rare asbestos disease mesothelioma. These individuals did not work with asbestos. One evident link to their exposure to asbestos appears to be time spent along the Lake County shoreline at Illinois Beach State Park and in Waukegan. State and federal agencies claim that the beaches are safe as hundreds of pieces of asbestos debris and trillions of microscopic asbestos fibers wash onto our shorelines each year. They define “safe” as one additional cancer death for every ten thousand citizens who visit the beach. Unfortunately, about two million citizens visit Illinois Beach State Park each year alone! How many more families are exposed to asbestos all the way to Oak Street beach in Chicago? Are two hundred potential cancer deaths to beach-going Lake County children exposed to tremolite and other virulent asbestos fibers acceptable to you?

Sadly, asbestos-related diseases take several decades before they appear. The asbestos polluters and the public officials who let them off the hook will be long gone by the time diseases from this year's asbestos exposures manifest themselves to be statistically significant. Another beach season is upon us. Millions of families visiting the Lake Michigan shoreline will be exposed to airborne asbestos from Zion down to Chicago. I have found this to be unacceptable and have tried to do something about it. At least I am now three years closer to a solution.



## State's Confused Priority: Renaming Our Park

In April, Dunesland sent letters of protest to state legislators and Governor Blagojevich. They want to honor retiring State Senator by renaming Illinois Beach State Park after her, even though she attended the ceremony several years ago renaming it after war hero and environmentalist John Cullerton and has done nothing to try to solve some of the problems at the park. In addition to the environmental issues, there were two full time naturalists, now there are none due to state budget cuts. How many tens of thousands of dollars will it cost to rename the park?

Excerpts from the letter: It seems that the memory of some of our elected officials must be very short. The name of the game seems to be aggrandizing yourselves in hopes that one day a monument might bear your own name. Senator Geo-Karis already has a few things named after her, including a park and a street, so she really doesn't need this park whose name has a proud history, not withstanding the damage that has been done to it while she stood by.

Since 1998, there has been a great deal of media coverage about the serious issues at Illinois Beach State Park; many complaints have been brought directly to Senator Geo-Karis. Although she lives in the Zion area and is supposed to represent all its residents, Senator Geo-Karis was not always a proponent for the park or the people who used the park when it came to these most serious issues. She stood by, allowing the following to happen:

The beach on the north end [and south]of the park is closed because of microscopic and chunk asbestos contamination where visitors had been exposed to friable asbestos fibers prior to the closure, putting their health at extreme risk.

Massive erosion of the north end feeder beach is in violation of the Army Corps of Engineers' construction permit through negligence by the state agencies. They have allowed precious habitat and endangered species to be lost forever. These public officials are in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Dedicated Nature Preserve Act.

Park staff has been cut from 24 to approximately 12, manifesting in massive security and environmental stewardship deficits. Incidents in the last 36 months include a hatchet murder, the knifing of two women, and at least two arson-induced fires. The

## WHY WOULD THEY CONDUCT TESTS UNDER THESE CONDITIONS? LET'S GUESS...

This is activity-based testing being conducted at IBSP by CDC/ATSDR with the cooperation of IDNR, after numerous complaints by Dunesland that no testing has been done on the beach to mimic beach activities on hot, dry summer days. The device they are dragging is designed to stir up dust and asbestos fibers. While doing this, the state allows the public to remain on the beach. Such conditions would stir up the friable asbestos fibers, causing them to become airborne and easily inhaled by beachgoers. Instead, our government agencies that are charged to protect public health chose cool, damp days to conduct the testing. The testing days were preceded by more than one record-breaking week of drenching rains that saturated the sands. We sent a letter of protest prior to the start of testing, but they ignored our concerns. This was a waste of taxpayer dollars; these conditions mask what is on the beaches. It appears that the results could be written before the scientific analysis is even complete! 5/23/06,

The Johns Manville Superfund site waste lagoon system has been allowed to leak into the park's dedicated Nature Preserve for years and contaminate it with microscopic asbestos and chemicals, while state legislators, IAG, IEPA, USEPA, and IDNR stand by, allowing political influences to prevail. (See [www.asbestosbeach.com](http://www.asbestosbeach.com).)

IDNR's Springfield management alienated and squeezed out park staff when the staff members objected to the massive contamination at the park and the cover-up of it.

Illinois Beach State Park is the first Dedicated Nature Preserve in the United States and it has been desecrated by contamination and Springfield's incompetent mismanagement and politics.

There are asbestos cancer (such as mesothelioma) illnesses/deaths in the local towns whose victims did not work for an asbestos manufacturing company such as Johns Manville. These victims are classified as non-occupational. Did they get it from visiting the beaches at the park or elsewhere on the Illinois shoreline?

During this time, as the park sustained irresponsible abuse and drastic staff cuts, we know of one action Senator Geo-Karis apparently took. It seems that she managed to obtain a liquor license for her chauffeur who ran the park's concession. Political connections have allowed alcoholic beverages in the park, causing mayhem. In many other state parks, alcohol is not allowed. Why is it still allowed at the Crown Jewel?

What an atrocity for the state and public officials to have allowed this to happen to the Crown Jewel of the state park system! Why should an environmental organization have to fight so hard to protect the park from its supposed protectors?



## This 'n That You Need to Know!

### You Won't Want to Miss Our June 17 Luncheon!

Mark Your Calendar for Fall Meetings: September 16 and November 18!

### 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.

### PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST!

Unfortunately, it has become very difficult to send out a newsletter before every meeting due to the massive demands on our time. But if you are on our email list, you will receive email flyers and notification about various issues.

Mailing costs have also become exorbitant, so emailing is a fiscally prudent method for us. It would be very helpful if you would send your email address to us to help cut down costs:

**[ildunesland@aol.com](mailto:ildunesland@aol.com)**

Please include your name and any additional contact information you wish to share. Your information will not be shared and all emails are sent BCC.



#### FRIABLE ASBESTOS AT ILLINOIS BEACH

This photo shows a piece of debris that was on the ground at Camp Logan at the north end of the park. Please note the ragged edges. This is friable asbestos which crumbles to the touch or weathering and can become airborne and inhaled by unwitting passers-by who have access to this unrestricted area. Despite Dunesland's requests to IDNR, IEPA, and the IAG to prohibit the public and properly remove debris, the public has access to this illegal dump area. As families walk through the area kicking leaves, guess what else they're stirring up!

### Support Our Work Days! Dunesland Makes News!

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.

[Chicago Sun Times](#)  
May 19, 2006

February 8, 2005

January 28, 2005

[Waukegan News Sun](#)

May 25, 2005 editorial

May 20-21, 2006

May 18, 2006

June 1, 2005

April 15, 2005

[Lakeland Media Group](#)

June 2, 2006

May 19, 2006

[Conscious Choice](#)

December, 2004

[Recent Websites:](#)

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

[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)

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