

**TO:** DEER PARK VILLAGE BOARD  
**FROM:** PAT WINKELMAN/VEHE FARM FOUNDATION  
**SUBJECT:** MONTHLY REPORT  
**DATE:** OCTOBER 2008

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### **Action Item—Village Owned Archived Materials**

The Vehe Farm Foundation has chosen the Barrington Area Library as the site to store our archival materials and recommend the library for the Village owned items. The library currently stores materials in archival boxes not in a temperature controlled room as previously stated, allows archived items to be removed by owners for short periods of time, provide Internet access to the material, and will provide an electronic form of the items. Included in the Barrington Area Library's expansion referendum of November 2008, is an addition of a temperature-controlled facility. Please see attached inventory list and letter from Barrington Area Library.

**Action item:** Village approval to store Village owned archived materials at the Barrington Area Library.

### **Presentation—Information Only**

Scout from Cub Scout Pack 348

### **Additional Information Items**

#### ***Public Relations and Partnerships***

The new crushed rotten granite path connecting the Betty McLaughlin Memorial Butterfly Garden and the barn has been completed. This path was made possible by donations from an anonymous donor, the Little Garden Club of Barrington, Todd Gordon of Gewalt Hamilton, and Milieu Designs Inc. The path has already been used to move items from the barn to the farmhouse and garden, event attendees have used the path, and people visiting the farm have commented on how nice the path is, stated that it visually connects and draws one up to the garden, and easy to navigate.

Foundation members continue to donate time on a weekly basis to Citizens for Conservation's prairie restoration efforts in exchange for CFC's continued donations/partnership.

Foundation members continue ongoing prairie restoration/maintenance efforts on Saturday afternoons. Once again, work expanded beyond the 12:00 to 2:00 periods. Seed harvesting continues this month at Vehe Farm, along with invasive species removal, protection maintenance of the orchard trees, and butterfly garden maintenance.

We had a wonderful turnout of community volunteers, including Cub Scout Pack 348, volunteers from Arlington Heights (met at partnership events), and unexpected volunteers of those parents and children attending the soccer games at Vehe Farm to assist in the seed harvesting. All enjoyed beautiful fall days at the farm, learning about the prairie, why the prairie is being restored, the benefits of the prairie, names of plants, saw insects and birds preparing for fall and winter, walking and seeing the wildlife at the wetlands, and learning why the wetland area at Vehe Farm is important to our local watershed....our source of well water.

The Foundation gave a presentation regarding Vehe Farm and it's amenities to members of Prairie Woods Audubon Society at their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Member comments include that Deer Park residents must be very proud of their Village for their insight to save a part of Lake County's history and once a farm of this caliber is lost, there is no way to replace it. One such member was so impressed with Vehe Farm that he donated a beautiful brass eagle weathervane. Installation will take place shortly.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest display at Vehe Farm was part of a featured article in the Daily Herald. Please stop by the barn to see the display and pass along the contest information to local educators. Wouldn't it be nice to have a student from our area win an age group, or even first place in the nation-wide contest?

The Foundation's website [www.vehefarmfoundation.org](http://www.vehefarmfoundation.org) continues to be updated and expanded. Please visit our site to view the many photos of the seed harvesting workdays and the Brownie tour.

Visit the Barrington Area Library during November to view the five west display windows completed by the Vehe Farm Foundation focusing on the Vehe Farm municipal center, the barn, garden, and all of the farm's amenities. In addition, the Vehe Farm Foundation's *Leave No Child Inside* tri-community initiative will be highlighted.

### ***Community Service and Education Programs***

The IDNR trunk-lending program at Vehe Farm has been receiving a wonderful response. Public and private schools in Lake Zurich and Barrington are using the trunks. Please read the attached letter from Tanya Pfeiffer a third grade teacher at Barbara Rose Elementary School in Barrington, thanking the Village for having Vehe Farm barn host the educational trunks.

Seed cleaning will take place the latter part of October and seed sowing will take place in early November.

On October 1, the Vehe Farm Foundation gave Brownie Troop 809 from Isaac Fox Elementary School a nature and historical tour of the prairie, wetlands, outbuildings, and barn. The tour was completed with a nature-based craft activity in the barn's museum space.

The Foundation has presented the *Leave No Child Inside* tri-community initiative to the St. Anne's Parochial School's Parents Organization, the Barrington Area Community Foundation, Ela and Barrington Area Library's, and several other organizations. The Foundation continues to develop the *Leave No Child Inside* Steering Committee and the next meeting will take place this month.

An Eagle Scout fundraiser was held at Deer Park's Jamba Juice on October 9, 2008 to help fund the cost of materials for the footprint stands at Vehe Farm. The Foundation thanks all who supported Greg in his efforts. Greg's next fundraiser will be at the Deer Park Moe's Southwest Grill on October 23, 2008. Visit [www.vehefarmfoundation.org](http://www.vehefarmfoundation.org) for further details. If you would like to make a contribution towards this project, please mail or drop it off at the Vehe Farm Foundation's mailbox at the Village Hall. Make it out to the Vehe Farm Foundation and be sure to add, "Eagle Scout Footprint Stand Project" on your check. Your contribution is tax deductible.

The Foundation has been asked to attend the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership tour on October 15, 2008. The tour will include visiting various locations of the Flint Creek Watershed Area, including Vehe Farm. Deer Park recently became a member of the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership.

A Foundation representative will be a guest at the Little Garden Club of Barrington Luncheon on October 20, 2008, at the Vehe Barn.

The Foundation has begun discussions for another Eagle Scout project at Vehe Farm. Details to become available at a later date.

### ***Prairie and Butterfly Garden Update***

The fall colors are waning in the garden and the prairie. Monarch, hummingbirds, bluebirds, and other fauna are on their way south for the winter. Many bird species are stopping off at the farm to rest and feed before they continue their migration. October was the month to see the praying mantis in the prairie. Many pregnant female mantises were searching for just the right place to deposit their ootheca safely away from predators.

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