

TO: DEER PARK VILLAGE BOARD
FROM: PAT WINKELMAN/VEHE FARM FOUNDATION
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2009

Action Items:

Follow-up from June, July, and August's request for appointment of Village Board trustee to fill the empty position on the Vehe Farm Foundation board.

Fee waiver: The Foundation continues to hold LNCI events on behalf of the Village and requests a rental fee waiver for the October 24 storytelling event at Vehe Farm. Please see attached rental fee waiver form and program summary.

Approval Requested: Maintenance to Catalpa Tree

Regarding the large catalpa tree north of the large corn crib, the Foundation recommends to the Village that the maintenance work described below be performed this fall. Two written bids were obtained, with the lower bidder being The Care of Trees (\$660). Two local residents have offered to donate to the Village the \$660 for the Village to pay for the described services (the check is attached). Attached is a photograph of the referenced tree.

Background: The north catalpa tree is approximately 75–100 years old. It is an exceptional looking tree, with large branches arching to the ground, and one that draws photographers and admiring comments by farm visitors. The tree is in good condition, but, for long-term health and maintenance, should have the main trunks/leaders cabled (total of three cables), a dead limb pruned off, and finer pruning done. This maintenance was recommended by The Care of Trees earlier this past summer when Rich Bergland, their senior arborist, was walking the property with Pat Winkelman.

Three companies were asked for bids—The Care of Trees, McGinty Bros., and E. C. Bode, Inc.. The results follow:

- All three companies recommend a minimum of three cables be installed to support the main leaders—two cables to support the main leaders (trunks) and one cable to support the large northeast branch. Eyebolts will be used.
- Bode did not proceed with submitting a written proposal, but stated that they would charge \$225/steel cable and \$350/flexible cable.
- The Care of Trees quoted \$450 to install three steel cables and to cut off the dead 10-inch branch. And, they quoted \$210 to prune out deadwood one-inch in diameter and larger. **The total cost of The Care of Trees' work would be \$660.**
- McGinty quoted \$495 to install three steel cables, and \$450 to cut off the dead 10-inch branch and reduce the weight off the branch ends. **The total cost of McGinty's work would be \$945.**

The Foundation finds the work proposed by The Care of Trees to be the appropriate scope and cost of work recommended for the long-term preservation of this remarkable tree and Vehe Farm attraction. Rich Bergland has confirmed that the quote provided the Foundation will also apply to the Village being the contracting party, and that the quoted cost will remain the same. Village of Deer Park to state what documents are needed from vendor if work is approved.

Grounds Stewardship

Prairie/Wetland Restoration

Prairie and wetland restoration continues beyond the normal work period with volunteers concentrating on removing Canadian Thistle, phragmites, cattails, and teasel. For the months of September and October, all efforts will be focused on seed harvesting in the prairie, butterfly garden, and wetland areas.

Betty McLaughlin Memorial Butterfly Garden

The garden is winding down for the season, but many butterflies can still be seen, especially the Monarch, as it bulks up before its southern migration to Mexico.

Community Service and Education Programs

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership Fall Festival

This past Saturday, September 19th, the Vehe Farm Foundation, representing the Village of Deer Park, and LNCI Consortium participated in the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership Fall Festival. We developed the nature trail brochure; trained the Girl Scouts on watershed, groundwater, wetland, and prairie concepts, and oversaw the nature trail activities. The Foundation donated approximately 50 hours to this effort.

Eagle Scout Projects for Deer Park/Vehe Farm

The horse-drawn bobsled reconstruction is nearing completion. Work continues on the historical storyboard information that will be posted by the bobsled and the binder that will be handed in for final determination by Scout headquarters that this project warrants receiving an Eagle Award.

Outbuilding Restoration

Discussions continue with potential donor.

Junior Duck Stamp Display

Photographs of the 2009 Illinois winners are currently on display in the barn and press releases remitted.

IDNR Education Trunks

Illinois' Prairies and Illinois' State Symbols are now available to teachers, home schooled children, and Scouts to use at no charge at Historic Vehe Farm. In addition to the new trunks, Illinois Trees, Illinois Birds, Illinois Aquatics, Illinois Insects, Wild Mammals, People and Animals of Illinois Past, and Illinois Fossils are also available.

Vehe Farm's Leave No Child Inside (LNCI) Activities

LNCI Children Events

"Ice Cream in the Woods" with naturalist, April Anderson, was a success. Children and parents learned of the various foods that can be found at Vehe Farm. Everyone made homemade ice cream and topped the ice cream with various fruits, nuts, and even maple syrup. A special thank you to Fresh Market, Trader Joe's, and Jewel-Osco for donating most of the food products.

The October 24th event includes a professional storyteller and nature-based cultural project for the children.

School District 220 Field Trips

Parent volunteers were trained, curriculum developed, children's prototype field guide developed and printed, and the first LNCI field trip took place on September 14th. Many varieties of insects were seen and studied in the prairie, wetland area, and in the butterfly garden. One could hear the "wow," "cool," "look at the size of that spider!", or "the insects move so fast!". Educators, volunteers, and especially the children enjoyed their special trip to Vehe Farm. The Field trips continue through the month of September and all District 220 second graders will come to Vehe Farm to study insects and complete or incomplete metamorphosis.

LNCI website

Updates to www.funoutside.org continue and event publicity maintained at websites, newspapers, and magazines. A special article written by the LNCI Consortium's health committee chairman, Dr. Everett Weiss, was printed in the Fall 2009 edition of Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital's "It's Your Life". Please see attached article.

Lake Zurich Roundtable on Children's After-School Activities

The Foundation, representing Deer Park and Vehe Farm, continues to attend the Ela Township Youth Coalition focused on developing successful after-school programs for middle school students. Foundation volunteers helped with the August 21st "Back to School Splash Bash" at Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center.

LNCI Consortium Update

On September 22, the LNCI Consortium will be kicking off the implementation phase of its initiative.

Please note: many additional hours were volunteered this past month due to the ongoing LNCI activities, the multiple community events that the LNCI Consortium and Vehe Farm Foundation is involved with, the grounds maintenance and seed collection, and on a personal level, the current Eagle projects. This includes upwards of 40-45 hours volunteered by one VFF member and 25 hours by another member.