



# Lake Bluff Open Lands Association

www.lbola.org

2008 Spring Newsletter

LBOLA Warmline 847-234-2860

## Progress Report Lake Bluff's New Tree Preservation Ordinance

By Larry McCotter

Regular readers of this newsletter may have become exhausted by our ongoing complaints about Lake Bluff's existing tree ordinance and our breathless predictions that a new and improved ordinance was just around the corner. Our spring 2004 newsletter urged citizens to attend Plan Commission meetings towards that end. This time however we are proud to announce that our new Tree Ordinance has already passed out of the Plan Commission and is on to the Zoning Board.

LBOLA is very pleased with most of the new ordinance which will place a value on all significant trees and provide for the replacement of removed trees with an equal amount (in diameter) of new trees – or provide funds to a Tree Bank for planting elsewhere in the Village. Replanted trees will come from a list of preferred trees based on their nativity, longevity and ability to thrive in Lake Bluff.

Undesirable trees including buckthorn and other invasive trees will become unprotected and require no fee or penalty for their removal.

We would like to commend the Village President, Village Board, the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals, George Russell, Tom Cahill and our consultant, Chuck Stewart for their role in developing an excellent ordinance that will likely become a model for other Villages.

## Shop at Whole Foods on April 16th to Benefit Lake Bluff Open Lands

Whole Foods Markets has a policy of encouraging employees to give back to the communities in which they work. Last year LBOLA benefited from the collective labors of 28 Whole Foods Employees who cleared brush for the entire day!

Whole Foods Markets has offered (and we've happily accepted) that we participate in their "5% day". LBOLA will receive 5% of the Deerfield store's net sales for Wednesday April 16!!!

So let the cupboards go bare so that you can make space for a really big shopping day in support of LBOLA.

Mark it down - April 16th at Whole Foods in Deerfield!

## Excavators get Rocky Start in Lake Bluff Forest Preserve

By Dave Szaflarski

Recently we got bowled over by the appearance of a rather large boulder that's now seen in the Lake Bluff Forest Preserve. It's about the size of a small refrigerator and was unearthed during sewer work that was being done in the preserve. It now resides next to the path that separates the Skokie Preserve from the Forest Preserve as a trailside marker and it has rocked interest as a reminder to our local geology.



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



## Open Lands Day at Central School Woods Saturday April 19, 2008 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Each Earth Week LBOLA celebrates with our annual Open Lands Day celebration featuring a collaboration between community volunteers and students from Lake Forest High School and Lake Bluff Middle School in an effort to enhance one of our 13 natural area preserves.

For Earth Week 2008 LBOLA will focus its efforts on the Central School Woods, the recipient of a massive community effort to clear buckthorn and other invasive species several years back.

Central School Woods is a small, high quality woodland where numerous rare young shagbark hickories thrive alongside their parents, as well as mature red, white and bur oaks. Since clearing, numerous woodland grasses and wildflowers have begun to reappear.

Our Open Lands Day effort will include the planting of hundreds of additional savanna wildflowers and grasses in an effort to diversity the understory of this open woodland.

Join us for a Spring morning of community spirit and common purpose as we lend a little help to our little corner of the Earth.

To find Central School from the corner of Hwy. 176 and Green Bay Road in Lake Bluff, go north on Green Bay Road ¼ mile, turn left (W) on W. Washington Ave. and find a place to park. The woodland is on the right.

## Our “Picnic at the Beach” Is Back – On the Summer Solstice!

Our winter solstice celebration was snowed out, but we were so impressed by the response to the concept that we figured we would try again on the summer solstice. Where? Why the beach of course – and just in time to see the full moon (almost) rising.

Join us Friday June 20 at the South Beach Shelter as we howl at the moon, celebrate the arrival of summer (if winter ever ends) enjoy great BBQ and appreciate the dulcet tones of Lost In Song, featuring local bluegrass talents - Steve Ragsdale, Terry Moran and Marion McNair

## Birdwalk at Crab Tree Farm Set for May 18<sup>th</sup>

This year’s annual Birdwalk at Crabtree Farm will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> beginning bright and early at 7:00 am. Our birdwalk leader will be Donnie Dan, known for both his birdwalk leading abilities and for his environmental newsletter which is filled with great ideas and opinions. Please join us as we enjoy the beauty of the last lakefront farm in Illinois – and (hopefully) a beautiful birding experience. Children are welcome. Come dressed for the weather and don’t forget the binoculars!

## Woodcock Walk at the Skokie Preserve on April 26<sup>th</sup>



Join us on the evening of April 26 as we invade the privacy of those wacky woodcock birds living - and living it up, at the Skokie Preserve. The spring ritual dance of the male woodcock,

wooing his intended mate, is a fun and inspiring activity for mature audiences. Even more fun for the immature among us. Strange noises and aerial acrobatics are par for the course. Meet us at 6:45 pm in the parking lot for the Skokie Preserve off Hwy. 176 just east of Mariani to witness this zany event.

# LBOLA'S NATIVE TREE SALE ORDER FORM

## 2008

TREES	DESCRIPTION	MATURE SIZE	SIZES AVAILABLE	PRICE EACH	QTY. ORDERED	TOTAL ORDERED
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpus)	The Prairie Oak. Tolerates most conditions. Prefers sun. Deeply furrowed bark & great shape.	50' - 80' H 50' - 80' W	6' - 8' Tall	\$135.00		
Hills Oak (Quercus Ellipsoidalis)	Short stature, rounded oak. Pinnate leaves. Full sun. Holds leaves in winter. Good for borders.	30'-40'	2' Tall	\$30.00		
Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)	Likes water. Retains leaves in winter for screening. Yellow fall color, great shapes.	50' - 80' H 50' - 80' W	6' - 8' Tall	\$135.00		
<b>SHRUBS</b>						
Bottlebrush Buckeye (Aesculus parvifolia)	Mult-stemmed, horizontal growth habit. Spectacular mid-summer white flowers. Buckeye type leaves. Full sun to part sun.	12'-15' H	18"-24" Tall	\$48.00		
Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius diablo)	Decorative shrub with interesting seed heads like upturned umbrellas. Exfoliating bark. Tolerates half-shade. Deep purple leaved.	8' - 10' H 8' - 10' W	24" Tall	\$35.00		
Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)	Yellow, star-shaped blooms a wonderful surprise in November. Woodland shrub tolerates shade.	10' - 15' H 12' - 15' W	3'-4' Tall	\$52.50		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED**

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: APRIL 20TH**

You can view photos and descriptions of all of our trees and shrubs at [www.lbola.org](http://www.lbola.org)  
 Please include a check payable to LBOLA and send to P.O. Box 449, Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
 You will be notified by phone regarding a firm pick up date the first week of May.

*\*reminder: If your tree has a netted root bag, bag must be removed prior to planting!\**  
*Why not donate a tree to be planted in Lake Bluff Open Lands? Be our guest!*  
*Just specify on your order form and we will be happy to oblige.*

Questions? Call the LBOLA warm line 847-234-2860.

## *Thanks to new contributors over the past year!*

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Margaret Able  
AON Foundation  
Gabrielle Bouwer  
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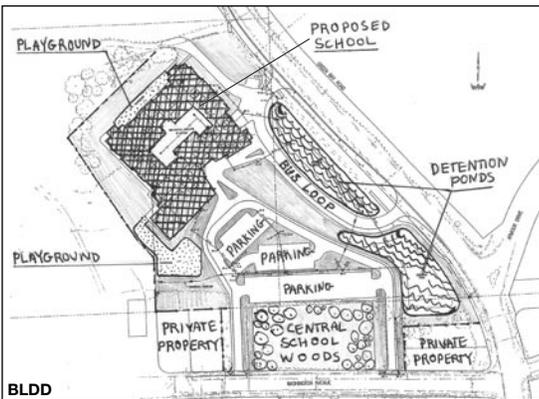
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Excavators (continued)

Geologically speaking, the stone cold truth about these rocks (and our boulder) is that they are known as *glacial erratics*; a rock fragment separated from the original rock formation by the action of ancient glaciers that once held reign over our lands. The glaciers were movers of mountains and these rocks were transported, deposited and thoroughly mixed from many rock formations. When the glaciers melted, they transported and deposited a material called *till* - an un-sorted mixture of rock fragments of all sizes. Bedrock in our area is also buried relatively deep beneath the till. So finding a big boulder like this near the surface is a relatively rare occurrence in our area.

As for the makeup of the boulder itself, it's called dolomite, similar to limestone (only with some extra magnesium). A dearly departed founding member of LBOLA, local historian and geologist Lawton Crosby once reported as a child seeing a big boulder of this dolomite stone at the end of the North Avenue Ravine. Having lived as a child in the early years of Lake Bluff's history he told a vivid story about how the Indians of our area knew of this rock as a source of chert, a variety of quartz used in the making of arrows and spears.

So when we saw this boulder pop out of the ground in the Lake Bluff preserve it gave us a chance to tell a tale from Lake Bluff's history. It's not a tall tale but it's one we thought worth sharing and that's no boulderdash!



## Central Woods Update

Our previous newsletter alerted citizens to the fact that the design for the new Central School appeared to be seriously short on open space. The latest design from the School's Architect is even more problematic with extremely limited playground space and no playing fields whatsoever. While District 65 has assured LBOLA that Central Woods is safe from development, our request for legal protection for this valuable remnant woodland has gone unanswered. Given the pressure for open space surrounding this new school, we believe the future is looking grim for this historic remnant.

## New Invader in our midst? Phragmites

by Dave Szaflarski

Coming soon to a wet area near you? Phragmites.

A new aggressive exotic grass is making serious headway into our area and has the potential to pose serious problems to degrade our wetlands.

Its official name is *Phragmites australis* and it was recently discovered in the Skokie River preserve, the Carolyn Goetz

Wetlands preserve and along the bike path. Perhaps you might have noticed it in passing as it is very distinctive; a large perennial grass (standing anywhere from 6 to 20 feet tall) with broad leaves and a large noticeable seed head. A long lived wetland plant, it forms extensive stands of dense mono-cultures much to the detriment of our native wildlife. Where conditions are suitable it can spread at an amazing clip of 15 feet or more per year, by horizontal runners.



Relatively new to our local area, Phragmites has expanded its range and abundance in North America and in particular is increasingly now found in the Midwest. Possibly being introduced from Europe, it has a world-wide distribution as it ranges all over the major continents. Surprisingly, a native Phragmites does exist which is markedly less vigorous and blends nicely with the native wetland community. But it is being crowded out by the aggressive and almost indistinguishable non-native version.

What can be done? As with any aggressive exotic plant diligence is needed to protect our open spaces. Keeping a watchful eye when it first pops up is the key to help minimize its disturbance. At LBOLA-managed preserves it is very much on our watch list where we take active measures to stop it in its tracks. Hopefully, our active LBOLA land management efforts coupled with your ongoing support will help give our local wetland natives the upper hand in this constant battle to weed out the exotics.

## Walt Schamber - Thanks for Decades of Support!



After more than 35 years of service as the General Manager of the Lake Bluff Park District, Walt Schamber will be retiring this year. Walt has been very generous to LBOLA in many ways over the years. Many Lake Bluffers have the misimpression that LBOLA owns the natural areas that we manage. In fact, LBOLA's only owned preserve is Moffett Woods! The Park District owns our beach prairies, the Prairie Preserve on Belle Foret Drive, our little stretch of Ravine Park between Gurney and Moffett, the south beach bluff and most significantly, the Carolyn Goetz Wetlands Preserve. Walt's support of LBOLA's efforts have been unfailing over the years. His attitude has always been that "what LBOLA does is good for the community and that's the most important thing." The very existence of the Prairie Preserve and the Goetz Wetlands Preserve are a tribute to Walt's creativity and determination to make good things happen. Walt, we appreciate everything you've done for Lake Bluff Open Lands Association. Our organization would look very different without your contributions. Thanks Walt! Have a great retirement.

