

# RIVER talk

## “Three Creeks” Tour This October

UDPREP’s second annual watershed tour, “Three Creeks: Projects and Perspectives,” is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2005. This year’s tour will focus on an assortment of projects and issues impacting natural and human-made creeks (and adjacent lakes) in Cook and Lake Counties.

Beginning at Oakton Community College, participants will visit “Oakton Creek” and “Oakton Lake”, two human-made water bodies on this flood-prone campus. Natural Areas Manager Ken Schaefer will lead an exploration of erosion control and habitat restoration projects at various stages of development. Some of these projects apply experimental techniques, such as using buckthorn timber and other “found” materials to control erosion.

Tour stop number two will be Eitel’s Woods in Lake County. Participants will first enjoy lunch while Natural Areas Manager Jim Anderson describes wetland, prairie, and woodland restoration efforts funded by C2000 and USEPA STAG grant funds. Following lunch, Jim will lead a visit to the dam between North Mill Creek and Rasmussen Lake which will soon be removed in order to restore the natural corridor of North Mill Creek, including the surrounding wetland and upland habitats. Jim will describe studies completed to date and the procedure for implementing this complex project.

The final tour stop will be Bull Creek in Lake County. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and local stakeholders have been hard at work developing a watershed plan for Bull Creek (see related story below), and team leader Patty Werner will be on hand to talk about stream inventory and plan restoration/management recommendations. Patty will also describe creek maintenance/management issues faced by private property owners.

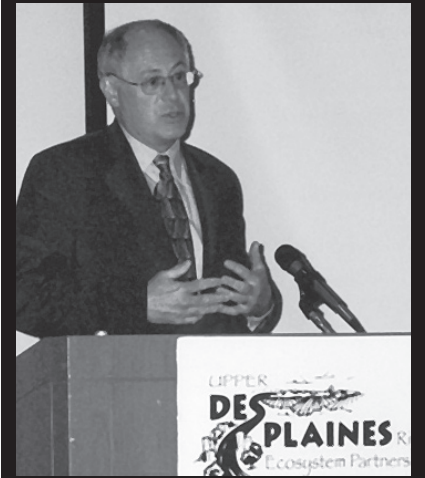
The tour will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Carpools are being organized in Lincolnshire and Libertyville. See our web site for details.

The deadline for registration is October 11, 2005. The tour is limited to 40 participants.

More information and registration forms are available at [www.upperdesplainsriver.org/2005tour.htm](http://www.upperdesplainsriver.org/2005tour.htm). Or contact Alison Cook at [upperdesplainsriver@yahoo.com](mailto:upperdesplainsriver@yahoo.com) or 847-328-3457.

**AUTUMN 2005**

**Lt. Gov. Quinn Speaks at Annual Meeting**  
See reverse for highlights.



## WATERSHED PLANNING UPDATES

### NEWPORT DRAINAGE DITCH

—Tony Wolff, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission

The Newport Drainage Ditch watershed planning process is progressing with a draft watershed plan expected in Fall 2005. The planning team has gathered and analyzed data pertaining to soils, land cover, drainage, flood problem areas, pollutant loading, water quality impairment, stream conditions, wetland conditions, open space, and threatened and endangered species.

A public meeting will be held soon to present the results of the recently completed floodplain study update. An action plan is being developed to address the goals and objectives developed by stakeholders. The action plan will be included in the draft watershed plan for public review.

For more information contact Tony Wolff, 847-918-5264 [twolff@co.lake.il.us](mailto:twolff@co.lake.il.us).

### BULL CREEK / BROOK

—Patty Werner, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission

The Bull Creek/Brook watershed assessment is largely completed, and a summary presentation of the assessment was made at the May planning team meeting. The floodplain study and re-mapping are also nearing completion. The new draft floodplain maps will be released at a public meeting this fall.

The planning team is presently looking at the watershed issues that have been identified by stakeholders, reviewing the results of the watershed conditions assessment, and developing goals and objectives for the Action Plan. They will be meeting monthly over the next three months to complete the goals and objectives and the Action Plan.

For more information, visit [www.co.lake.il.us/smc/planning/bullbrook/default.asp](http://www.co.lake.il.us/smc/planning/bullbrook/default.asp) or contact Patty Werner at [pwerner@co.lake.il.us](mailto:pwerner@co.lake.il.us).

### UDPR PHASE II

—Sheila Schultz, Des Plaines Watershed Team/UDPREP

The Phase II Advisory Committee met in August 2005 to discuss the status of pilot studies, the FY 05 activities, and potential FY 06 activities subject to available funding.

While the Levee 50 design and construction is near completion, progress on Levee 37 is dependent on finding additional storage upstream. The Corps of Engineers has identified such storage on the Archdiocesan property as part of the National Economic Development Plan (NED), but the local interests would prefer a storage facility on the adjoining Wheeling Park District Property. The local interests are developing a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP), so further dis-

ussion is required on cost-sharing of all features. The LPP would require the local sponsors to pay 100% of the cost over the NED, which is currently estimated to be \$3.3 million. The local sponsors have expressed concern about being able to provide the funds. State, county, local, and agency officials will be meeting in the near future to revisit the storage issue.

The Chicago District of the Corps has hired a consultant to review the Big Bend Lake Preliminary Design to address the concerns of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. A draft report will be submitted to the Corps and forwarded to the stakeholders in September.

For more information on Phase II, visit [www.upperdesplainsriver.org/planning.htm](http://www.upperdesplainsriver.org/planning.htm).

# RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL MEETING

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn addressed nearly 100 UDPREP members and guests at the 2005 Annual Meeting in May. As the sun set at Independence Grove Forest Preserve, the Lt. Governor spoke about his many experiences in the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed. He also expressed his strong commitment to securing funding for Conservation 2000 and other programs so essential to restoring Illinois' watersheds.

Lake County Board Member Ann Maine presented the Lt. Governor with UDPREP's first ever "Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Award" in recognition of his ongoing efforts to protect and restore natural resources. UDPREP President Jim Anderson also presented tokens of appreciation to the Liberty Prairie Foundation and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. for their contributions of vital seed funding.



**(Left to right) Nancy Williamson, IDNR's C2000 Program; Lydia Scott, UDPREP Vice President/Village of Lincolnshire; and Sheila Schultz, UDPREP Secretary/Des Plaines Watershed Team.**

Five UDPREP partner groups representing a variety of interests treated participants to news highlights from across the watershed and spoke about their current work and plans for the future.

UDPREP members cast their ballots in the annual election of

Executive Committee officers. Members re-elected Jim Anderson, Lydia Scott, and Sheila Schultz to the posts of President, Vice-President, and Secretary respectively. Sarah Surroz of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy was voted in as the new Treasurer.

For more meeting highlights and photos, visit [www.upperdesplainesriver.org/2005annualmeeting.htm](http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org/2005annualmeeting.htm).



**UDPREP President Jim Anderson (left) and Lake County Board Member Ann Maine present Lt. Governor Pat Quinn with the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Award.**

Thanks to everyone who helped make this UDPREP's biggest annual meeting ever!



**(Left to right) Rich Seaman and Ev Tyner, Friends By Nature; Ralph Freese; and Hall Healy, Facilitated Solutions, International.**

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We are pleased to announce that The Liberty Prairie Foundation (LPF) awarded UDPREP an \$8,000 general grant in May. These funds come at a crucial time in UDPREP's development as we are expanding our services and preparing to launch our ambitious 5-year strategic plan. Special thanks to Mike Sands at LPF for his assistance and support.

UDPREP was honored to be one of several conservation groups selected to receive proceeds from the June benefit concert at Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake. Organized by Stan Rosenberg of Prairie Crossing, an environmentally friendly housing development and conservation community, the concert featured singer-songwriter Michael Smith.

## Annual Meeting Sponsors

- Lake County Forest Preserves
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
- Hey and Associates, Inc.
- V3 Consultants, Ed Belmonte and Tom Slowinski
- Applied Ecological Services, Inc.

## NEW MEMBERS & DONORS

### \$1-\$15

Kathleen Paap  
Kathy Ryg

V3 Consultants,  
Ed Belmonte and  
Tom Slowinski

### \$16-\$35

Indian Creek Watershed  
Project, Ltd.

### \$1,000-\$5,000

Christopher B. Burke  
Engineering, Ltd.  
Hey and Associates, Inc.

### \$100-\$999

Applied Ecological  
Services, Inc.

### \$5,000-\$10,000

Liberty Prairie Foundation

# THANK YOU!

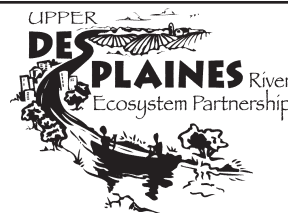
UDPREP is grateful to the following in-kind contributors for their recent support.

Jim Anderson, Lake Co. Forest Preserves  
Bonnie Thomson Carter, Lake Co. Forest Preserves  
Amy Bodwell, Brookfield Zoo  
Bill Eyring, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Chris Fisher, Village of Lincolnshire  
Alex Deans, Youth Conservation Corps  
Tim Girmscheid, Liberty Prairie Conservancy  
Susan Hawkins, Lake County Forest Preserves  
Hall Healy, Facilitated Solutions International

Chalen Hunter, Northwest Municipal Conference  
Andrew Kimmel, Lake County Forest Preserves  
Ann Maine, Lake County Board  
Jeff Mengler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ward Miller, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission  
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Pat Quinn, Illinois Lt. Governor  
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Chris Sanders

Sheila Schultz, Des Plaines Watershed Team  
Lydia Scott, Village of Lincolnshire  
Sarah Surroz, Liberty Prairie Conservancy  
Katrina Wardrip, Kenosha/Racine Land Trust  
Patty Werner, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission  
Sean Wiedel, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission  
Nancy Williamson, IDNR, Conservation 2000  
Christine Urban, U.S. EPA

Upper Des Plaines River  
Ecosystem Partnership  
[www.upperdesplainesriver.org](http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org)



UDPREP works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River watershed through stakeholder education, collaboration, and technical assistance.