

MOLA NEWS

Mettawa Open Lands Association
mettawaopenlands.org



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Summer 2010



HSBC employee volunteers and Mike Harms of LFOLA at the June 2010 MOLA Workday

Our neighbor, HSBC, continues to help maintain our quality open space

Once again HSBC has graciously contributed to MOLA — this year in two ways. First, their foundation has given us a donation to help fund the conversion of the pasture area of the Whippoorwill Farm Preserve (WFP) into a native plant community. Also, HSBC employee work teams are volunteering for us at four workdays during this growing season.

We have already held our first HSBC/MOLA workday in June this year at Deerpath Farm (DPF). 10 HSBC employees joined MOLA, DPF and Lake Forest Open Lands to rescue native plants that were growing in a future home building pad. This workday was a wonderful opportunity to work with one of our Mettawa Area neighborhoods to help educate the residents and volunteers about quality open space, as **MOLA Encourages Quality Open Space!**

MOLA embraces families in the Mettawa area

By the Mettawa Board

Mettawa Open Lands Association (MOLA) recognizes that many people live in unincorporated areas that are surrounded by the Mettawa Village incorporated boundaries. The MOLA board recognizes the connection Mettawa residents have with our Mettawa area neighbors, and we know that our landscapes and wildlife populations are also connected in ways that transcend municipal boundaries. We recognize that these neighbors of Mettawa benefit from MOLA's efforts and may be interested in getting involved too. Therefore:

The MOLA Board now welcomes the membership and participation (at all levels) of ALL living in the Mettawa area.

MOLA is pleased to announce that we now have one board member (out of seven total) living in Forest Haven. Drew Johnson's contributions will help MOLA move forward into the future (please see the article about Drew on page 2). We also welcome four other Forest Haven families who became MOLA members during our wildflower seed mailing to celebrate the Village of Mettawa's 50th anniversary. We hope more Mettawa Area families can join MOLA in our effort to **Encourage Quality Open Space** in the Mettawa area and keep our landscape rural.

Please encourage your neighbors to join us at a workday, become a member and/or donate: online: <http://www.mettawaopenlands.org>.

JOIN OUR WORKDAYS! Healthy open space needs regular care

By Cheryl Pytlarz, MOLA President

There is a misunderstanding among many that quality native landscapes need little care once the native seed has been sown. I want to take a brief opportunity here to set the facts straight about this!

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2010 WORKDAYS

JUNE 9	Wed. 1-4 pm	Plant rescue
JULY 21	Wed. 1-4 pm	Wood chip path
SEPT 8	Wed. 1-4 pm	Seed collection
OCT 6	Wed. 1-4 pm	Seed sowing
OCT 9	Sat. 9-noon	Seed collecting

For more details visit our website: mettawaopenlands.org.



“We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil; all committed, for our safety, to its security and peace; preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work and the love we give our fragile craft.”

Adlai E. Stephenson, Mettawa resident 1938-1965. Quote from a speech to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Geneva, Switzerland, 09 JUL 1965



Whippoorwill Farm before (r) and after (l) restoration.

Whippoorwill Farm Preserve Update

Keep your eyes open for fall 2010 when we convert the Tallgrass western area of the site from pasture to native grasses and flowers.

MOLA is partnering with the Village of Mettawa to natively landscape our village's historic Whippoorwill Farm Preserve (WFP). Seven acres of highly dense buckthorn have been transformed into a prairie/wetland complex. WFP is located on the NW corner of Riverwoods Blvd. and Rt. 60.

In the future: Over the years we will transform the current landscape into a rolling sea of prairie and wetland native flowers and grasses, with the Mettawa trail and resting benches meandering throughout.

Contractors: Three contractors are working at WFP: Integrated Lakes Management (ILM), Tallgrass Restoration (Tallgrass) and DePaul University (DPU). ILM is working the eastern area of the site that was full of flowers during the 2009 growing season. Tallgrass is working the western area of the site that is planted in pasture grass for haying. DPU is working the northern end of the site along Riverwoods Blvd. where they are performing scientific research on 45 test plots.

Why the different landscaping methods? Buckthorn eradication is one of the most challenging tasks when embarking on a native landscape effort in NE Illinois. DPU, Tallgrass, ILM and MOLA have teamed up to study different methods of eradication over a 5 year period to determine which method works best.

Other MOLA Board members include Keith Gray, Tim Towne, Larry Falbe, Bob Busscher and MOLA President Cheryl Pytlarz. **We continue to seek more board members** from the Mettawa Area so that all regions are represented in our efforts. If you are interested in serving on the MOLA board, please email MOLA at mola06@mettawaopenlands.org or call 847-302-4982. The time commitment is about 40 hours per year, for board meetings and implementation of our programs.

Join our Workdays, cont. Generally landscapes that have been put into a native plant community are large landscapes, one to hundreds of acres. Unfortunately for us today, there are dozens of non-native plants that have settled in our roadways and open lands and have been left wild and un-managed. These non-native, invasive plants got here via their seeds, which were brought in by birds, the wind, your shoes and such, and they have no natural predators to keep them in check. Therefore, once they set hold, they can easily outcompete our wonderful native plants. It is these non-native “beasts” that must be constantly thwarted, year after year, or else they will become the dominant plants in the desired native plant landscape.

Because of this constant threat, MOLA partners with the Village of Mettawa to cover the costs for taking care of Village-owned open space. Also, MOLA has workdays scheduled for our membership each year to get outside, enjoy our open space and make sure its quality is maintained. The 2010 workdays are listed on page 1 of this newsletter. Please RSVP to a workday at mola06@mettawaopenlands.org or 847-302-4982, so I will have supplies ready for you!

To learn more about why **native landscaping IS less expensive to maintain on a per acre basis than mowed turf**, please visit the page “Whippoorwill Farm Preserve” on our website, www.mettawaopenlands.org.

MOLA welcomes new board members

By the Mettawa Board

Welcome Linda and Drew! Their volunteer commitment to govern and run MOLA brings our board membership to seven.

Linda Gardner Phillips joined the MOLA board in December 2009. She is a resident in the Deerpath Farm Conservation Development. Her expertise is in the Internet and organizational branding/communications, which are much-needed talents for MOLA. She grew up on an island in Savannah, Georgia and because of this experience she is aware of the importance of preserving the natural environment in our urban Chicagoland region.

Drew Johnson joined the MOLA board in April 2010. He lives in Forest Haven and is a registered landscape architect for Rocco Fiore & Sons. Drew has worked with the Village of Mettawa to improve the future landscaping of the Costco project as well as the Oasis and hotel landscaping. Drew says, “I feel a passion for what is around me. I would like to see the open spaces of Mettawa become leading examples of how to improve our environment and continue the ideals that founded Mettawa.” Drew’s quality open space knowledge will help MOLA “Encourage Quality Open Space” in the Mettawa Area.