

# Dunes News

Published by Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society

P.O. Box 466

Zion, IL 60099

312 332-3377

November, 2003



Paul A. Kakuris, President

## Luncheon Reservations

Saturday, November 15  
12 PM

## Park Resort

Please give your menu  
choice when you make  
your reservation:

1. Chicken Caesar Salad
2. Sesame Chicken  
Salad w/fruit
3. Beach Burger
4. Club Sandwich

## RSVP by November 12.

Dory Havens 847 945-2243

Karen Jump 847 498-5710

### Dunesland in the News!

*Chicago SunTimes*

July 3, 2003

July 14, 2003

July 31, 2003

*Chicago Tribune*

July 3, 2003

August 22, 2003

*Waukegan News Sun*

July 3, 2003

July 17, 2003

August 1, 2003

*Zion-Benton News*

July 17, 2003

August 7, 2003

Some of these are still  
available online.

## Len Messineo, Award Winning Nature Photographer, Presents “My Affair With Nature...Thru Photography” Luncheon Meeting on Saturday, November 15 at Noon Illinois Beach State Park Conference Center

Len is a dedicated nature and wildlife photographer whose expertise and knowledge developed after his retirement from his manufacturing business in 1992. He has won numerous awards and citations in the Chicago area and was awarded Photographer of the Year honors in the highly respected Riverwoods Nature Photographic Society, where he also served as President. The Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association has recognized Len's accomplishments with many awards, including First Place in Nature Photography competition several times and a special achievement citation TOPS. More recently, he was recipient of the 2003 Kohout Nature Award, one of the most prestigious awards of the Association.

Len conducts slide lectures of the Florida scene with its stunning bird life, and also of an exciting African adventure. Several other programs are designed to educate, entertain, and promote nature preservation. His images and whimsical stories have been described as superb and dramatic portrayals of our natural world.

In “My Affair With Nature...Thru Photography,” the interplay between nature and photography is examined in award winning representations of our natural world, for Len's goal is to convey an understanding and appreciation of the techniques and art of the nature and

wildlife photographer. He also aspires to instill in each audience a desire to respect and protect our dwindling natural resources. He has skillfully blended nature stories, photographic imagery, and the environment in an entertaining, yet subtle educational experience. You will enjoy the beautiful images of plants, birds and animals. His work exudes a deep reverence for nature.

Dunesland is very pleased to welcome Len back for another exciting presentation. His presentation will take your breath away with the beautiful photographic images he so intricately weaves together.

## Attorney General Madigan Creates Taskforce and Excludes Dunesland, Park Superintendent Bob Grosso, and Jeff Camplin

The Camplin report was a study written for Dunesland that identified more asbestos at the Greenwood Avenue site 2 and power plant fishing pier. The report analyzed previous studies and also included new tests at Illinois Beach State Park, confirming asbestos and microscopic asbestos in various areas at the park. Dunesland also discovered an additional area of contamination in the park's Nature Preserve just north of

the industrial canal of the Johns-Manville Superfund site. In Mr. Camplin's analysis, he recommended that the sites mentioned above, as well as the 6 ½ miles of beach, should be closed to the public until new tests could prove that there isn't any airborne microscopic asbestos for visitors to breathe on the park's beaches.

The Attorney General and State Senator Susan Garrett responded to this report, by announcing the appointment of a taskforce. This announcement was broadcast in a press release which excluded naming the Camplin report and Dunesland as the motivating force. The press release mentioned a “civic group” and a “consultant” which was an obvious omission.

## Taskforce Excludes Key Players (continued)

The Attorney General avoided appointing Bob Grosso, the park superintendent, Jeff Camplin, the president of Camplin Environmental Services, and Paul Kakuris, the president of Dunesland to the taskforce. Dunesland wrote to the Attorney General expressing disappointment that the most knowledgeable people and instigators of this taskforce were omitted. Dunesland asked for a response. There was a second letter requesting a response and that has also been ignored. What purpose could possibly be served by not including the people with the most depth of understanding of the issues that affect our park?

Further, many of the members of this taskforce were on a statewide taskforce in 1998 which collaborated on the Hanson Report. As it was noted in the Camplin Report, the Hanson Report was found to have "cooked" the sampling and testing protocols which resulted in manipulated and ambiguous results. The Attorney General's office apparently has appointed a taskforce with a stacked deck and something to protect. Instead of the house winning, the environment loses.

## A Major Victory! Dunesland Causes Army Corps of Engineers Not to Dump Their Dredgings From Waukegan Harbor Approach Channel at IBSP !

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*"Nearness to nature...keeps the spirit sensitive to impressions not commonly felt, and in touch with the unseen powers.*

*Ohiyesa, Sioux*

After years of battling with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Corps chose to take their dredged material and dump it offshore of Waukegan Harbor and not at the park's beaches. Over the years, Dunesland has bitterly complained that the Corps' dumping of their dredge material at the park apparently contained contaminants and microscopic asbestos. Although the Corps has taken samples and tested before dredging every year, Dunesland

accused the Corps of "cooking" the sampling and testing protocols in order to achieve an outcome of "clean" sand. You can't detect contaminants if you don't test for them. In earlier years, Dunesland conducted its own tests and found the contaminants in the dumped material, even when the Corps said it was clean sand.

This last spring, Dunesland asked the Illinois EPA for a

public hearing with regard to the Corps' planned dredging for the summer of 2003. Apparently, the Corps backed away when they realized they would be exposed to public scrutiny and bad press. Dunesland is working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to force the Corps to take more detailed samples and more in-depth testing. Stay tuned to see if IEPA's director Renee Cipriano will order proper sampling and testing protocols as set forth by Dunesland.

## USEPA, IEPA, IDNR Pressured to Test Nature Preserve Their Limited Tests Will Mask the True Level of Contaminants

*Be sure to contact the directors of these agencies. Contact information is on the back page. Show your involvement and let your friends and neighbors know what's happening to our beautiful park..*

*"The pen is mightier than the sword," don't forget.*

After the brush fire which denuded the Nature Preserve last spring, Paul Kakuris and park superintendent Bob Grosso took a field walk to have a better view of the Manville industrial canal's connection to the Nature Preserve because the fire had destroyed so much brush. Those illegal connections were obvious, but what was more startling was the sight of asbestos debris from Johns Manville strewn over acres of the Nature Preserve.

Dunesland requested an investigation of the area immediately and sent formal complaints to the various agencies

requesting an immediate investigation. Subsequent investigations lead to an IEPA preliminary water test of the leakage in the Nature Preserve swail. The results show that contaminants were found in the Nature Preserve's surface water. These contaminants appear to be similar to the contaminants found in the Manville canal.

Unfortunately, the USEPA has requested that Johns Manville, the alleged polluter, test for four metals in the soil of the Nature Preserve. Dunesland discussed the lack of a comprehensive testing protocol with the USEPA's

Superfund manager Brad Bradley who doesn't see a reason to do detailed testing in the Nature Preserve. Are the foxes still guarding the hen house?

The list of contaminants that should be tested for could be well over 150. Apparently, the USEPA doesn't want to find contaminants in the Nature Preserve because it would slow down the delisting of the Superfund site. A narrow scope of testing is indicative of the narrow mindedness of the environmental consciousness which appears to be prevalent in these agencies, let alone their lack of enforcement and prosecution.

## Why is Dunesland Demanding Full Spectrum Testing?

The industrial canal which is one of Manville's six lagoons is connected directly to the Nature Preserve through breaks in the canal's banks. These openings lead to several swales which lead to the Dead River approximately 2,000 feet to the north. The Manville lagoon system has been connected due to the breaks and thus has leaked into our Nature Preserve for decades.

Over the decades, apparently, whatever contaminants were in the lagoon ended up draining through the Nature Preserve north to the main branch of the Dead River and out into Lake Michigan. These open breaks in the canal bank are a violation of the federal consent decree and the NPDES permit which are designed to regulate the Manville Superfund site. The IAG (Lisa Madigan), the Nature Preserve Commission (Carolyn

Grossboll), USEPA (Thomas Skinner), IEPA (Renee Cipriano), and IDNR (Joel Brunsvold) are the so-called custodians for this area have evidently turned the other way and ignored this problem. By not doing full spectrum tests, these agencies appear to be covering up for Manville and not doing what they are charged to do, that is, protect the environment and enforce the violations.

Please contact the directors of these agencies to share your views on this topic.

## AG's Taskforce and the University of Illinois' Occupational Health Department Announce Scope of Work to be Studied:

### Key Areas Excluded From Testing and Examination

The AG's taskforce recently announced the scope of work for studying the health risk of asbestos at Illinois Beach State Park and the surrounding area. The Camplin Report identified the key areas to be studied, that is, the 6 ½ miles of beach at the park and site #2 at Greenwood Avenue and the fishing pier. The scope of work for the AG's taskforce has excluded the recommended tests for these areas. Additionally, the announcement mentioned the other studies to be reviewed, but excluded mentioning Dunesland's Camplin Report. How could the University of Illinois and the Illinois Attorney General's Office conduct themselves in such an unprofessional manner? Are they trying to cover up, too? Why don't they demand new tests?

## Recent Chicago SunTimes Article Criticizes AG's Office for Operating the Taskforce in Secret

Not only have Grosso, Camplin, and Kakuris been kept off of the taskforce, but the taskforce meetings have been closed to them, as well as to the public. Attorney General Lisa Madigan has claimed to be a staunch supporter of the Open Meetings Act for other groups, but has ruled that her taskforce is not subject to the Open Meetings Act and possibly is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The criticism generated a further response from the AG's office saying that the Kakuris and Camplin were not on the taskforce because they do not work for a government.

In a recent conversation with the AG's office, Paul then asked if that was the case, why not allow the park superintendent Bob Grosso to be a member of the taskforce? That question was met with silence. State Senator Susan Garrett, when questioned about open meetings and her role with the AG on creating the taskforce, responded by saying that she was for open meetings and open democracy, but would not insist that the AG follow the Open Meetings Act. We're very disappointed that these two elected officials don't seem to be walking their talk now that they are in the first year of their new positions. It's apparent to all that Grosso, Camplin, and Kakuris would insist on the tests recommended in the Camplin Report and would have changed the landscape of the taskforce's present scope of work. As stated before, many of these same individuals and agencies that were involved in the skewed 1998 - 1999 Hansen Report are the same individuals on the present Taskforce. They will also be analyzing their own work on the Hansen Report. Isn't that a cozy set-up?

Chicago SunTimes, September 26, 2003

*"The shining water that moves in the streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans is not only water, but the blood of our people.*

*You must remember and teach your children to give the water the kindness that you would give your brother.*

*The white man treats his Mother, the Earth, as a thing to be bought and sold.*

*He will devour the Earth, leaving behind only a desert, leading to the end of living and the beginning of survival. The Earth is precious to God.*

*To harm the Earth is to harm its Creator.*

*We must keep the land sacred, a place to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers.*

*All things are connected.*

*Teach your children that the Earth is our Mother.*

*Every part of this Earth is sacred to our people.*

**Know this...**

*This earth does not belong to Man, Man belongs to the Earth.*

**Know this...**

*All things are connected, like the book which unites one family.*

**Know this...**

*We do not weave the web of life, What we do to the web, we do to ourselves.*

*All things are connected."*

*Chief Seattle, 1854*

***Please Pay Your Dues! Additional Donations Are Always Welcome to Enable Our Work.***

We operate on a calendar year, so please plan to pay at the meeting or send in a check if you haven't paid in 2003.

Regular, Individual \$25

Regular, Family \$40

Friend of Dunesland \$100

Lifetime \$1500

Full Time Student \$15

Senior over 65 \$20 (on request)



Donations are tax deductible.

***Support Our Work Days***

Work Days are the second Saturday of each month from 9 AM until noon. Arrangements can be made if you want to work beyond noon or on another day. Meet at the Nature and Interpretive Center at the southe end of the park unless otherwise specified. In the event of inclement weather, special projects or training sessions will be held at the Nature Cener. If you have questions or suggestions, please conact Don Wilson at 847 772-2910 (cell) or 847 937-2583 (work) or Bill Wengelewski at 847 662-4811 (park).

There are special opportunities such as wetland burns, adopting a section of the park for monitoring, such as locala creeks, ravines, birds, park boundaries, bluebirds, butterflies, reed grass, purple loosestrife, and others. There is also training for identification of plants and animals and dunesland topography.

**Ms. Lisa Madigan**

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***Attend our November 15 Luncheon Meeting!***

***Mark your calendar now for the February 21, 2004 meeting.***

***Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society***

***P.O. Box 466***

***Zion, IL 60099***









