

LOOKING BACK TO SEE THE PATH AHEAD: ENVISIONING LAKE COUNTY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS



Ann B. Maine
President
Lake County Forest
Preserves



David F. Nelson
President
Preservation
Foundation of
the Lake County
Forest Preserves

An Eastern Bluebird establishes a nest within Ryerson Conservation Area. Water flows from restored wetlands into the Des Plaines River. A volunteer plants a young oak to ensure future generations of this keystone species survive. With each new day, the landscape of Lake County improves in such small ways, it's easy to overlook the change. Blink, and you miss the moment.

The history of the Lake County Forest Preserves is made up of moments big and small. It was the 1960s when the Board of Commissioners set a wildly ambitious goal of protecting the land all along the Des Plaines River in Lake County. Fast forward to 2014 and an acquisition of just four acres—a sliver of land needed to construct the final 1,500 feet of the 31-mile Des Plaines River Trail. A small moment in time that completed a big vision, decades in the making.

We couldn't do it without you, the friends of the Forest Preserves and donors to the Preservation Foundation.

As you'll read in the following pages, donors in the past year helped protect open space, restore wildlife habitat, and maintain beloved preserves and trails. They enabled students from across Lake County to immerse themselves in science, ecology, biology, and sustainable agriculture using the Forest Preserves as living laboratories. Wildlife and birds, cultural exhibitions and other projects too numerous to list also benefitted from donor support.

In 2014 we paused to look back: to the founding legislation 100 years ago that created forest preserves in Illinois, to the establishment of our own system in Lake County, and to the moments big and small that have brought us to where we are now. The metrics are impressive:

- 30,100 acres of protected lands, 14,600 of which have been restored
- A diversity of habitats that support 2,918 unique plant and animal species, 305 of which are rare, threatened or endangered
- 19 new Illinois Nature Preserves
- 184 miles of trail

Having established a strong foundation, we asked ourselves, "What will the *next* 100 years look like for Lake County?"

How do we, as stewards of our region's natural resources, ensure these treasures are protected and available for future generations? Oak trees planted today will take 100 years to mature. Children we touch today will be the next generation's environmental leaders. The 100-Year Vision for Lake County takes a long-range view because the work we do spans generations.

Our plan articulates strategic directions and aspirational goals, including creating three 10,000-acre complexes of restored land, eradicating buckthorn, and reaching every Lake County resident. You can learn more about the plan at www.LCFPD.org.

The day-to-day Foundation happenings captured in the following pages will shape the Lake County Forest Preserves and drive its vision over the next 100 years. As you read, think back to the days you've spent enjoying your forest preserves. More so, imagine the days ahead that future generations will spend enjoying these natural spaces. Think of the plants and animals that depend upon our work to survive and thrive. Only with supporters like you are we able to turn our vision into a reality.

ann B. Maine

Ann B. Maine President Lake County Forest Preserves David F. Nelson President

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Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves

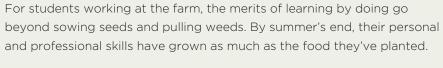
How do we, as stewards of our region's natural resources, ensure these treasures are protected and available for future generations?

CULTIVATING A BETTER FUTURE



Grower Jesus Cuezzi watches as members of his farm crew pull carrots, potatoes and parsnips from the soil of a one acre garden at the Green Youth Farm in Lake County located within Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago. His heart is "filled with joy" to see these high school students harvest the root vegetable crop he worried might not grow.

As a five year veteran of the Green Youth Farm program, Jesus knows small-scale farming is a continual learning process, filled with trial and error. He advises the student growers to "make room for mistakes, then learn for next time."



Since 2003, the Lake County Forest Preserves has partnered with the Chicago Botanic Garden to offer education and a paid job experience for high school students from economically challenged communities near Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Crew members work spring through fall tending and harvesting fruits and vegetables, operating a weekly farm stand, and providing fresh produce and nutrition education for foodinsecure communities in Lake County, as well as some of Chicago's most underserved areas.

The program challenges teens in ways that build their confidence while instilling a respect for the environment and knowledge of sustainable urban agriculture. They build positive work habits, discover personal interests, experience new accomplishments, and develop healthy eating habits and skills preparing nutritious foods.









When Jesus moved to Waukegan in 2008 as a high school student, he began working at the farm as a crew member. He returned the next year as a crew leader, managing his own farm crew. Later, he became a market and growing apprentice, taking on increasing responsibility each year as his skills and confidence grew.

Today, Jesus attributes his courage to take on greater challenges in his daily life and career to the experiences and knowledge he gained while at the Green Youth Farm. In 2012, he spent his summer volunteering on an olive farm in Tuscany, Italy before returning home to serve as the Assistant Harvest Manager at Tempel Farms Organics in Old Mill Creek. His career path in urban farming has led him back to where his passion began—the one acre garden at the Green Youth Farm.

"Working for the Green Youth Farm in Lake County has altered the way I think about the program," said Jesus, who values how the program benefits high school students and the communities they are leading by example. For our youth, "being good stewards of our earth and the environment is a must."

Each year the Green Youth Farm in Lake County comes to life in late spring, thanks to Preservation Foundation donors. Students work on Saturdays until school ends, and throughout the summer, they work Monday through Friday, planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. They learn to prepare and enjoy the food they grow, they take some home, and they distribute to local Women and Infant Children centers. Students also run a weekly farm stand from July through October, where residents can purchase at a reduced rate.

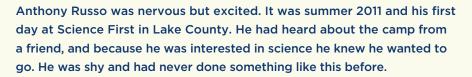






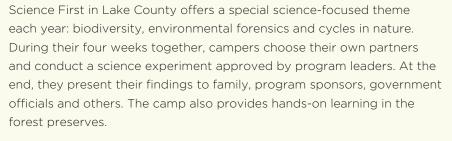
NURTURING YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS







Two years later, Anthony walked into Science First in Lake County ready to start what—by the end of camp—was his favorite year. Even though he had been going for the past two years, he looked forward to making more new friends.





Melissa Alderson, program coordinator for Science First in Lake County, says the value of the program is that it gets kids into nature, keeps them engaged and increases their interest in science-related classes. It also encourages kids to consider future careers as scientists. An added benefit is that Science First in Lake County nurtures new friendships, bringing kids together from diverse communities across the county.

The program shows students, especially those from underserved schools, that science is fun and can be an exciting career. It allows kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity, a chance to go to camp, make friends and practice hands-on science each summer.





Melissa often sees a change in children from the first day of camp to the last. "The first couple of days they're quiet and shy, but by the last day they're friends with everybody. They have more confidence in answering science questions and have a better overall feeling about science. It's a teaching tool that brings together kids from all around the county who share a common interest."

On his last day of camp this year, Anthony and a fellow student presented their science experiment to the Lake County Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners. Even though he was sad to be leaving many great friends, he focused on how much fun he had at camp over the past three years.

Bridget Russo, Anthony's mother, says Science First in Lake County helped her son open up and become more social. "It's very beneficial for kids. It's a great opportunity for students to learn and do something hands on, not just sitting in a classroom."

Anthony says he would recommend the program to other kids, "because if you're into science or even if you just want to meet friends or do something with your summer, it's really fun and can prepare you for the future."

This STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) summer program is designed for Lake County youth from minority or underserved communities who are entering grades seven through nine. Students spend four weeks exploring the natural world and learning about potential careers in the sciences. The program is free, and transportation is provided.







MARGOT MERRICK FUND ENCOURAGES NEXT GENERATION OF NATURE ENTHUSIASTS





these budding environmental scientists, the Bird Conservation Training program, a partnership between the Lake County Forest Preserve District

and the College of Lake County, is a dream come true.

On a crisp October afternoon, a dozen biology and environmental science



The data collected from their fieldwork will be added to the Bird Conservation Network's eBird database, an invaluable tool for the bird conservation community. Program participants will also actively engage in habitat conservation, led by CLC professors and local bird experts, including professionals from the Lake County Forest Preserves.





Upon her passing, Margot's family established the fund to ensure she could continue to encourage a love of nature in others. Mitzie Wynkoop, Margot's daughter, said the fund helps "people gain an appreciation for nature, birds, and the importance of research and education in the preservation of birds and their habitat."

Lynne Carpenter, Margot's long-time friend and birdwatching companion, hopes grant recipients also gain some of Margot's enthusiasm for birding. "If we could get kids infected with the same curiosity, the same passion, the same involvement that she had, we could all have an improved natural environment."

The Margot Merrick Fund aims to promote bird research and education among Lake County youth, inspiring the next generation of bird lovers, scientists, natural resource managers and ecologists by providing small-scale grants annually, based on recommendations from the Lake County Forest Preserves. To donate to the Margot Merrick Fund, please contact the Foundation at donate@LCFPD.org.



A CALENDAR FULL OF CONSERVATION



Though Marj and
Jamie have traveled
with Bat Conservation
International to locations
as far away as Costa Rica
and Belize to study bat
ecology, it is here in Lake
County that the couple
most enjoys observing
little brown bats take
flight at dusk.

Marj Lundy and Jamie Godshalk have been filling their calendar with lectures, volunteer-led hikes and bird monitoring since moving in 1990 to Lincolnshire, just north of the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area. The couple was introduced to the Lake County Forest Preserves by friends almost 15 years ago. Today, Marj and Jamie are returning the favor by sharing with others the wonders of the natural world perched right outside their front door.

On a warm day in July, Jamie helped more than 300 middle school students from across the country use Ryerson Woods as an outdoor laboratory during the 2014 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program. These young ecologists studied the effect of canopy cover on oak regeneration as part of the program.

A seasoned volunteer educator, Jamie regularly leads hundreds of preserve visitors through Ryerson's popular Halloween Hikes each October and Maple Syrup walks on weekends in March. The day spent with student scientists this summer was just another walk in the woods and an excellent opportunity for Jamie to share the preserve's treasures with new visitors.

Marj, too, learns from nature by observing the preserve's daily and seasonal changes. She takes weekly walks at Ryerson to monitor 18 bluebird nest boxes through the spring and summer, quite literally watching the woods come to life. "As a birder," she says, "it is especially rewarding to watch these birds as they nest."

Rewarding is exactly how Marj and Jamie would describe the "wonderful asset" near their home. Their role with the Lake County Forest Preserves has evolved over the past 14 years, blurring the boundaries between volunteer, donor and nature-enthusiast neighbor.



The progression from volunteer to donor felt natural to the couple when, 10 years ago, they made a donation to help to save a picnic shelter at Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda from demolition. A colony of little brown bats had taken up residence under the shelter's roof and would have been difficult to relocate. Through their gift, the shelter was spared and repurposed as a dedicated habitat for the bat colony. Another shelter was built nearby for picnickers.

The couple's first foray into funding conservation efforts left them eager to give again. In 2013, they donated funds to send a Lake County Forest Preserves staff member to a multi-day training focused on monitoring bat populations for disease. The Forest Preserves matched the donation, and today, environmental educators run a monitoring program to track bat populations throughout Lake County using echolocation recordings and GPS tracking.

It's fitting that Marj and Jamie are also helping protect colonies on the Forest Preserve lands where they were "introduced to the world of bats."

Both can remember the day their interest sparked. In 1992, ecologist Merlin Tuttle gave a lecture at the Smith Nature Symposium, hosted annually at the Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods. The couple heard Tuttle's message about the need to preserve the critical role bats play in ecosystems loud and clear.

Though Marj and Jamie have traveled with Bat Conservation International to locations as far away as Costa Rica and Belize to study bat ecology, it is here in Lake County that the couple most enjoys observing little brown bats take flight at dusk. Marj and Jamie agree the Lake County Forest Preserves has changed them for the better. Beyond their passion for bat ecology, the couple has stayed active, expanded their social circle and become environmentally conscious.

"I think forest preserves have a huge influence on the people who live near them, in terms of awareness and conservation," concludes Jamie. "They're a constant visible reminder to care for our environment."

Each year, hundreds of people volunteer tens of thousands of hours in forest preserves throughout Lake County. Our volunteers play a key role in operations and public safety, habitat restoration, cultural preservation and education. There are opportunities available for individuals and groups in a variety of settings—both indoors and out. For more information about volunteer positions, please contact Mark Hurley at (847)968-3324.









FOSTERING COMMUNITY THROUGH FOOD AND CULTURE







The delicious aroma of sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie settles on the crisp fall air surrounding the Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago.

Inside, 50 Great Lakes Credit Union (GLCU) staff members are busy setting up tables, arranging trays of food, decorating, and sorting the warm coats, hats and mittens they have been collecting. They are preparing for the Giving Dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, an event that allows individuals from local homeless centers the chance to enjoy a festive turkey dinner and to select warm clothes for the winter ahead.

Since 2008, GLCU has been an active donor to the Greenbelt Cultural Center, through hosting the Giving Dinner and sponsoring a variety of cultural events held at the Center. Sue Malo, business development manager for GLCU, described the Cultural Center as a "gorgeous venue that we've seen grow over the years."

Sue has been working with the Cultural Center since the beginning of their sponsorship and has always been impressed with the different events. "The staff does such a wonderful job with creative events to bring the community together in a very lovely place."

The Greenbelt Cultural Center provides a place for people to gather for cultural enrichment. Each summer, the Cultural Center hosts the Sounds of Summer outdoor festival series, which includes summer concerts and events like Kidsfest, Gospelfest, and Afrofest. During the spring and fall, a series of monthly community campfires allows residents to experience nature at night. And each February, the Center hosts Profiles In Excellence, a program to honor black history and African-American achievements.

According to Chris Ayers, manager of the Greenbelt Cultural Center, "each event creates a unique opportunity to educate people about the culture being celebrated. The Cultural Center is far more than just a banquet hall or meeting space. It is an integral part of the community. We work with our event sponsors to integrate both education and entertainment into a program that meets the needs of the community and achieves the objectives of the sponsor."

Thanks to donors like Great Lakes Credit Union, the Greenbelt Cultural Center has become a premier community gathering place that celebrates Lake County's rich natural and cultural diversity.

Set within the scenic landscape of Greenbelt Forest Preserve, the Greenbelt Cultural Center opened in June 2000 through support of the community and assistance from corporate partners Abbott Laboratories and Grainger. An extensive building expansion was completed in 2011, with additional support from North Shore Gas and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.



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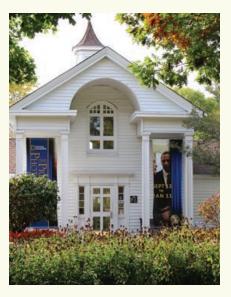








HISTORIC COLLECTIONS GRANTED A BETTER FUTURE



It's not every day the Lake County Discovery Museum in Wauconda receives a grant as great in amount or prestige as the \$750,000 Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant, awarded this summer as part of Governor Pat Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now! program. The grant will help the Discovery Museum better protect and care for its historic collections and make them more accessible to scholars, academics and the visiting public who use the collections as a resource.

"I cannot think of a larger single grant of money the Museum has received," said Katherine Hamilton-Smith, Director of Cultural Resources for the Lake County Discovery Museum.

"Museums play a vital role in telling us about our world and who we are, where we've been and where we're going," Governor Quinn said. "These investments will help museums attract even more visitors, boost tourism, create hundreds of jobs and help preserve our history for generations to come."



The Discovery Museum will use the funds to build a permanent archival storage and care facility for its revered collections. The new facility, equipped with state-of-the-art environmental control technology, will enable the Museum to better care for the treasures that tell Lake County's story.

Receiving a state grant is an immense accomplishment, but a typical day at the Discovery Museum is less celebration and more conservation. Museum staff work tirelessly to protect Lake County's historical pieces—paper, prints, postcards, objects—from the damaging effects of fluctuating temperatures, light and moisture.

Katherine is confident her team will be able to perform even better as an accredited museum in a facility that works *with* their archival efforts.

The new collections facility, to be built in the lower level of the Lake County Forest Preserves General Offices in Libertyville, also will allow the Museum to better share its collections with the public. Among other improvements, an expanded research and reading room is included in the designs for the new space. The plan includes gallery space so the Museum's treasures can be displayed and shared with the public.

One special piece Museum staff plan to share is an 1845 ledger for Eaton's General Store, which served as a record of daily life in Half Day, Illinois, in the decades following its charter. Each dated entry sheds light on the people that transformed this region from a wilderness into a settlement.

The same is true of written correspondence between families of Scottish settlers, demonstrating their flare for language. Postcards from the Museum's world-renowned Curt Teich Postcard Archives will also be better protected in the new facility.

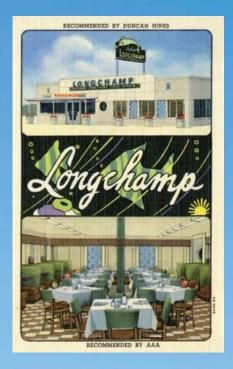
Many days of work are ahead in order to make this storage and research space a reality. When design plans for the facility are completed this winter, construction will commence in summer 2015, with an opening date in mid-2016.

For nearly 40 years, the Lake County Discovery Museum has provided a fun, well-rounded museum experience close to home. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction held by only five percent of American museums, the Lake County Discovery Museum is one of the best cultural offerings in the Chicago area.

The grant will help the
Discovery Museum better
protect and care for
its historic collections
and make them more
accessible to scholars,
academics and the
visiting public who
use the collections as
a resource.



CREATING A RESOURCE FOR ROUTE 66 ENTHUSIASTS



If you want your
collection cared for,
kept intact and made
available, the Curt Teich
Postcard Archives is the
place to give it.

Lake County Discovery Museum member Jim Powell has a fascination with Route 66. He grew up traveling the Mother Road on family vacations, winding past service stations and greasy spoon diners. Later in life, he and his brother Don took a Route 66 road trip in an equally iconic 1960s Corvette, guided by maps, nostalgia and a sense of adventure.

After Jim founded the Route 66 Association of Missouri in 1989, he began to collect vintage postcards of the historic highway. Over the course of 15 years, Jim built a collection of more than 4,000 classic Americana postcards.

Then, in 2005, Jim donated his entire collection of Route 66 postcards to the Museum's Curt Teich Postcard Archives as a way to share them with the public. "I wanted people to be able to use them," Jim said. "They weren't doing anyone any good sitting in my closet."

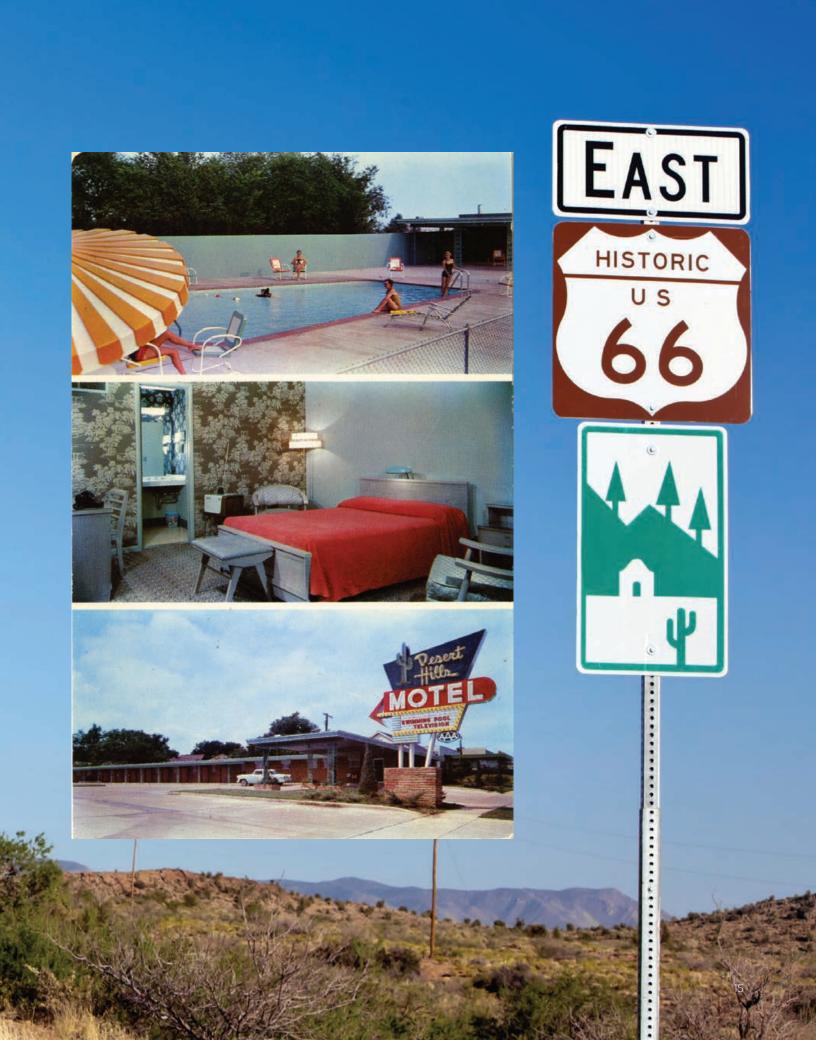
To further preserve Route 66's history, Jim has given money to care for his collection, as well as to catalog and digitize it. He has also recently partnered with the Teich Archives to fund a 2015 pocket calendar, which will showcase some of his favorite Route 66 postcard images.

"Jim's Route 66 collection speaks to the care and value he places on postcards and their historical significance," said Chris Pyle, Manager of Historical Resources for the Lake County Discovery Museum. "His love of history has made him a friend and collaborator of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives for more than 16 years."

Like the Museum's archival staff who care for his collection, Jim's continued financial support proves he "gets his kicks" from sharing the story of America's history with others.

"If you want your collection cared for, kept intact and made available, the Curt Teich Postcard Archives is the place to give it." said Jim.





DONORS TO THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF THE LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

Thank you to the following generous supporters, who made gifts of \$100 in cash, pledges, and in-kind donations to support the Lake County Forest Preserves between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

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Through the "Adopt An Acre, Adopt A Mile" program, anyone can dedicate one acre of their favorite preserve or one mile of their favorite trail in honor of a loved one or special occasion, making for a unique gift. The tax-deductible gifts are acknowledged with a personalized photo certificate. Call the Preservation Foundation at (847) 968-3434 for more information, or visit www.ThePreservation Foundation.org/donate.





PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF THE LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION June 30, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013		
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 355,324	\$ 477,954		
Investments	325,132	-		
Land held for resale	456,000	-		
Interest receivable	93	-		
Pledges receivable, net of discount	32,735	45,020		
Total assets	\$ 1,169,284	\$ 522,974		
14 DU 17170 A ND NET ACCETO				
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Accounts payable	\$ -	1,623		
Net Assets				
Unrestricted	188,520	152,464		
Temporarily restricted	980,764	368,887		
Total net assets	1,169,284	521,351		
	\$ 1,169,284	\$ 522,974		

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended June 30, 2014 and 2013

	Uni	estricted	2014 mporarily estricted		Total	Unr	estricted	2013 mporarily estricted	Total
Contributions and interest income:									
Contributions	\$	144,938	\$ 801,214	\$	946,152	\$	62,852	\$ 321,314	\$ 384,166
In-kind contributions		209,551	-		209,551		195,222	-	195,222
Interest income		327	-		327		252	-	252
Other income		526	-		526		50	-	50
Net assets released from									
restrictions		189,337	(189,337)		-		120,982	(120,982)	-
Total		544,679	611,877	1	,156,556		379,358	200,332	579,690
Expenses:									
Program		297,519	-		297,519		120,982	-	120,982
Management and general		80,359	-		80,359		77,102	-	77,102
Fundraising		130,745	-		130,745		120,960	-	120,960
Total expenses		508,623	-		508,623		319,044	-	319,044
Changes in net assets		36,056	611,877		647,933		60,314	200,332	260,646
Net assets									
Beginning		152,464	368,887		521,351		92,150	168,555	260,705
Ending	\$	188,520	\$ 980,764	\$1	,169,284	\$	152,464	\$ 368,887	\$ 521,35

The Preservation Foundation is the charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves.

Founded in 2007 as a way to connect the community to the Forest Preserves' mission of promoting education, recreation, preservation and restoration, the Foundation raises funds to improve and support Lake County's open lands, natural habitats and cultural, educational and recreational resources.

Donations to the Preservation Foundation allow the Forest Preserves to initiate programs and projects that might otherwise go unfunded or would take many more years to complete.

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The Preservation Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides meaningful ways for the community to partner in the mission of the Lake County Forest Preserves.

For more information, please contact the Preservation Foundation at (847) 968-3110 or donate@LCFPD.org.

1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048

www.thepreservationfoundation.org

