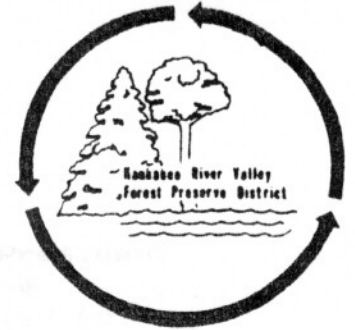


KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

Charles Smead, President



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 1993

The Forest Preserve District had an active and productive year in 1993.

Many programs were held for the public throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall months, ranging from such events as "Spring Birds of the Aroma Forest Preserve", "How Animals Communicate" and "Flowers of the Sand Prairie and Wetlands". Programs were conducted by Charles Smead, President of the District and a Biologist at Kankakee Community College. Also contributing programs were the Kankakee Audubon Society and Peter Dring, a Cook County Forest Preserve Naturalist.

Tree plantings were held at the Limestone Reforestation Project where 1000 new seedlings were added. At Strasma Grove, more mature trees were planted. Tholens Garden and Landscape presented "Proper Tree Planting Techniques" in conjunction with the Strasma Grove event.

Aroma Forest Preserve was host to the Nature Conservancy for their Earth Week programs in April, and the American Heart Association held their annual Walk-a-Thon at Gar Creek Trails in September.

The Forest Preserve District continues to furnish its golf carts to make it possible for seniors and disabled to participate in its programs at the Preserves. A KCC seniors program was conducted at Aroma nature trail in October.

The Forest Preserve narrated slide program was presented several times during the year to such organizations as the Womens Club, Kiwanis, Aroma Township officials and the Northern Illinois 4-H Camp Association as well as a public program at Kankakee Community College. This program is available to be given to any and all organizations who are interested.

In October, the District hired a new employee, Vernon LaGessee, who serves as Program Director and Site Development Coordinator. He has been very busy developing new programs for the coming season and some projects for the enhancement of our Forest Preserve sites, especially at Strasma Grove.

KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY FOREST
PRESERVE DISTRICT

During the year, Barry Jaffe chose to step down as President of the District, and Charles Smead was elected to the office. Kenneth Allers and James Fulton were reelected to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The death of Mickey Lile in October was a shock and real loss to the Forest Preserve District. He was a devoted and valuable contributor to the good of the District. Mickey had served as a Commissioner from May, 1991. He also served as Chairman of the Maintenance and Development Committee.

In March, an Open House and Business After Hours was held at the new offices of the Forest Preserve District at 150 N. Schuyler Avenue in Suite 1008.

The RICHARD WITT SCHOLARSHIP, provided by the Forest Preserve District for college students pursuing careers in Forestry, Conservation or Environmental Science was awarded to Steve Toth of Aroma Township. He is attending Illinois State University.

A water well was installed at the Aroma Preserve for the comfort and convenience of those who use that facility.

The Board commissioned the development and production of a new color brochure for the Forest Preserves. It will be ready for general distribution in February.

The District continues to participate with other Illinois Forest Preserves and Conservation Districts through the Illinois Forest Preserve Association. It is comprised of 14 Forest Preserves and 5 Conservation Districts. Here common problems are discussed, legislation reviewed and information exchanged.

There have been no new land acquisitions, but several sites within the District have been or are under consideration for acquisition.

The District established its annual budget of \$312,841, comprised of \$180,001 on hand, anticipated other income of \$27,000 and \$105,840 from general property taxes.

Chuck Smead, Forest Preserve District President says, "I look forward to our continued efforts to preserve and promote our environment. In 1994, I hope to see a joint informational fair which will bring together all of the environmentally oriented groups in the Kankakee Area."