



**METTAWA OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION**

[www.mettawaopenlands.org](http://www.mettawaopenlands.org)

The Mettawa Open Lands Association (“MOLA”)

*cordially invites you to its complimentary*

## **Summer 2013 Open Space Stewardship Social Gathering and Program**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2013**

Hilton Garden Inn, Main Ballroom  
26225 North Riverwoods Boulevard, Mettawa

**6:00 pm to 7:00 pm: Social Hour**  
(wine, cheese and fellowship)

**7:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Program**  
(see details below)

***Dear Neighbor*** - Exciting things are happening in the Village of Mettawa! With the acquisition of almost 70 acres of public land now owned by the Village, we all must better understand how such land can be preserved and managed carefully for our future generations. Not only does it “take a village” to support the careful stewardship of public land, we cannot forget that the land held by residents and private owners is intertwined with our public spaces. MOLA is committed to promote the preservation and management of our beautiful natural spaces, which can be done in ways that are aesthetically pleasing, but which also maximize the use of native plant species.

We invite you to come gather with us for fellowship and lively conversation, followed by an exciting one-hour program featuring an update on Village land acquisition activities and discussion of land management practices on both public and private properties. Our program has been *specifically crafted for Mettawa residents and friends*, and features top speakers in the areas of open space preservation and management:

**Steve Byers, Field Representative from the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission**, will speak about the ecological gem that is Lake County, and within Lake County, our unique community of Mettawa, where open space abounds to create interconnected habitats.

*(over)*

**Lydia Scott**, former Environmental Services Supervisor for the Village of Lincolnshire, and current **Community Trees Manager for the Morton Arboretum**, will talk about the benefits of using native plants on public properties from the municipal perspective.

**Sarah Surroz**, Conservation and Outreach Director at **Conserve Lake County**, will talk about county-wide efforts to preserve 20% of Lake County as open space, and will address what individual homeowners can do to preserve and maintain the remaining 80% in the hands of private landowners.

**Jess Ray**, Former **Mettawa Mayor and Conservationist**, has an enviable landscape at his home, with significant portions of it being native species. Jess will prove that the common perception that “natives look weedy” need not be true!

Please come join us!

RSVP to [larryfalbe@aol.com](mailto:larryfalbe@aol.com)

*Sincerely, the MOLA Board of Directors*

**Larry Falbe**, President

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