



Preservation  
Partners of the  
Fox Valley

2024

# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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## VOLUNTOURISM—IS IT FOR YOU?

As you might assume, this newsletter is focused on volunteer activities with PPFV. We are one of thousands of non-profit organizations in America that depend on volunteers. Those who give their time and talents and ask for nothing in return are truly the kindest and best people in the world. Our country could not survive without volunteers.

When volunteering outside the U.S., there are even more opportunities. In the world of international volunteerism, there are two kinds:

- Volunteering with development programs, such as the Peace Corps (U.S.) and Voluntary Service Overseas (U.K.). These groups, often funded with government aid, assign volunteers to long-term projects around the world.
- And volunteer tourism—or “voluntourism,” which is when people interested in traveling combine their time with a non-profit and volunteer while on vacation. While there is cost to the traveler, it is significantly less than a typical vacation.

Volunteer tourism is a \$3 billion a year industry. The funds paid by travelers go to the groups that coordinate the trips along with the development programs they support. It's easy to understand the appeal of overseas service. There's a sense of adventure, and people feel good about helping those who are less fortunate. Studies have found that volunteers perceive the trips as a meaningful and transformative life experience. They come away from the trips with feelings of improved well-being, purpose, and happiness.

Planning an international trip? Look for a volunteer opportunity for yourself! No matter where the travel-bug takes you, do a little research in advance and find a reputable volunteer organization. If you do, we would love to hear about it!



## PPFV TURNS FIFTY!

We spend a lot of time talking about history and historical things here at Preservation Partners. From uncovering new stories at our sites to researching new event themes for open days, we are almost *always* talking about history.

It's not often, though, that we get to talking about *our* history. As Preservation Partners turns 50 this year, we've been poring through old records and newsletters to rediscover our past. The things we've found have filled us with awe and admiration for all the hard work that has been done to get us where we are today. Scores of people have given their time, strength, creativity, and passion to our organization over the last 50 years and they share one fantastic trait: **they were and are amazing volunteers.**

So as we celebrate our golden milestone for Preservation Partners this year, congratulate yourselves on your hard work to perpetuate the shared love of local history and passion for storytelling, and for the solid foundation YOU have built to keep history alive for future generations. Thank you!

Kelsey Shipton  
Executive Director



*Volunteer and young girl on the steps of the Durant-Peterson House, ca. 1975*

## 2024 DOCENT TRAINING DATES

Whether you are a new volunteer or have been involved in the past, we invite you to join us when Museum Directors host educational sessions. We encourage you to attend to ensure you are able to provide our visiting guests with accurate and timely information.

If there is a specific topic that you, as a volunteer, would like to learn more about, please let us know! We would be delighted to create training sessions to support your personal interests and passions.

And feel free to **bring a friend** (or two)! Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out.

2024 Volunteer Training Dates		
Location	Description	Date and Time
Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	New Volunteer Training: Session One	Sunday, February 4 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	New Volunteer Training: Session Two	Sunday, March 10 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	All Volunteer Docent Refresher	Sunday, March 24 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Durant House Junior Docents	New Junior Volunteer Training Existing Junior Volunteer Refresher	Saturday, April 13 9:00 - 10:30 AM 9:45 - 10:30 AM
Durant House Adult Docents	All Volunteer Coffee and Social New Volunteer Training	Saturday, April 20 9:00 - 10:00 AM 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Sholes School Adult Docents	All Volunteer Coffee and Social New Volunteer Training	Saturday, May 18 9:00 - 9:30 AM 9:30 - 10:15 AM

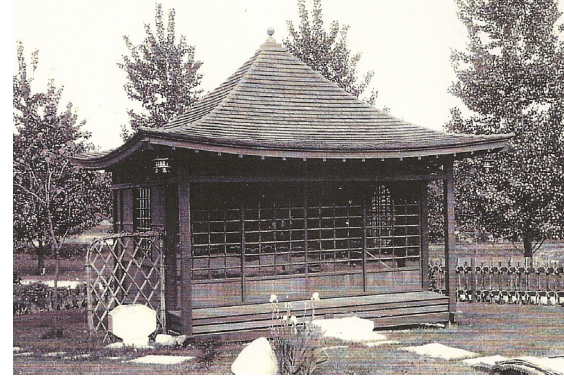
Visit [ppfv.org/volunteer](http://ppfv.org/volunteer) or contact Vivien for more information about the Fabyan sites and Debra for more information about Durant and Sholes.

## FABYAN JAPANESE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

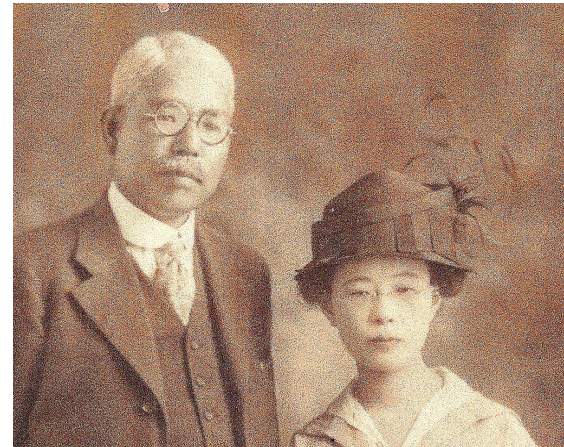
Designed in 1910 by Taro Otsuka, a Japanese landscape designer, the Fabyan Japanese Garden is truly a gem of the Fox Valley. Some words are familiar, but others are unique to the theory and construction of Japanese gardens. We have included more information so you can understand why certain words were selected. See if you can complete this puzzle in less than 10 minutes! Answers on page 4.

If you are not familiar with the Fabyan Japanese Garden, we have included snippets of the Garden's history and significance here:

- Taro **Otsuka** was hired by Colonel **Fabyan** to design the garden.
- In 1918, Susumu **Kobayashi** was hired to maintain the garden. His family lived on the property until Nelle's death.
- **Darlene** Larson, a longtime Geneva resident, was inspired to restore the garden... and with the help of many, she did! She was a member of the Geneva Garden Club and founding member of Friends of Fabyan, two organizations that have spent many hours restoring and protecting the Fabyan Estate.
- Japanese Gardens are designed for specific purposes and in different styles. Their primary purpose is to instill **tranquility**, **humility**, **harmony**, and **respect** for all of nature.
- **Torii** Gate. This wooden gateway, where visitors enter the garden, typically signifies a **Shinto** Shrine. There is no shrine in this garden but it's possible that the Fabyans considered the entire garden to be a shrine to **nature**.
- Two small hills, on the north side, joined by a bridge, represent Mt. **Sumeru**, the center of Buddhist universe.
- A **Moon Bridge** is a typical element in Japanese Gardens, so named because the bridge and its reflection in the pond form a circle, a symbol of unity and eternity.
- Using historic photographs, the Fabyans' replica of Mt. **Fuji** was reconstructed in 2011.



*The Tea House in early years*



*Taro Otsuka and his wife, Yoneko*

O	X	F	M	O	O	N	B	R	I	D	G	E	G	O
B	H	G	N	R	S	E	R	O	T	S	U	K	A	F
K	L	U	I	N	A	T	U	R	E	N	E	H	K	A
P	T	Q	M	N	X	Y	J	N	W	T	K	F	T	B
X	H	R	M	I	G	T	J	Y	Z	X	O	G	E	Y
P	A	U	A	U	L	K	A	K	A	G	B	H	A	A
R	D	T	W	N	H	I	O	O	U	G	A	Z	H	N
E	A	O	S	S	Q	A	T	I	U	N	Y	Q	O	I
S	R	R	K	N	D	U	R	Y	M	Q	A	S	U	Q
P	L	I	Z	L	L	W	I	M	U	G	S	H	S	F
E	E	I	Y	U	K	V	O	L	O	Q	H	I	E	U
C	N	S	U	M	E	R	U	Z	I	N	I	N	R	J
T	E	J	L	B	D	N	T	W	D	T	Y	T	N	I
V	U	I	E	R	A	E	N	V	B	T	Y	O	J	S
C	J	T	G	Q	D	K	I	E	V	M	X	R	Z	S



*The Kobayashi Family  
From left to right: Sumiko, Michiko, Suye, Noboru, Susumu*

### 17 WORDS TO FIND:

Darlene	Kobayashi	Shinto
Fabyan	Koi	Sumeru
Fuji	MoonBridge	Teahouse
Gingko	Nature	Torii
Harmony	Otsuka	Tranquility
Humility	Respect	

## VOLUNTEER BENEFIT

Membership is one critical element of every non-profit organization's financial stability. At PPFV, we offer Individual memberships starting at just \$50 a year.

Another critical element are our Volunteers. **Adult volunteers that commit 15 hours or more in a calendar year are provided a "Patron Level" (\$150 value) membership for that year.**

We love every one of our PPFV Members!

Visit [ppfv.org/membership](http://ppfv.org/membership) for more information!



Word Search Answers:



**Come and get your mug!**

Please stop by the Beith House for your PPFV volunteer mug, a token of our appreciation. Each time you **fill** your mug with coffee, tea, or your other favorite beverage, be reminded of how **fulfilling** volunteering can be!

## HAVE AN HOUR OR TWO TO SPARE?

It is important to store historical paper-based archives in safe and secure (cool temperature with proper humidity) environments. But stored away means we don't see them or access them as often as we'd like. So, museums scan photos, manuscripts, and newspaper articles to ensure the items are safely stored in digital format for staff and the public to access. PPFV has many of these items! Plus, we have the equipment and a documented process to get them scanned and properly labeled in our digital archival files. **All we need are volunteers to come to Beith House and learn the process!** Can you spare a few hours (Monday - Thursday)? If you are interested, please contact Kelsey Shipton at [info@ppfv.org](mailto:info@ppfv.org).

## YOU'RE INVITED!

For many nonprofit organizations, having an annual meeting is a requirement. That is the case for Preservation Partners of Fox Valley. The annual meeting serves multiple purposes, including a message from our board of directors, an opportunity to hear about the 2023 successes, a financial snapshot showing income, expenses, and assets, and a look into plans for the upcoming year. This meeting also provides members an opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions of the staff and board, and share their thoughts on the impact Preservation Partners has on the community. We hope you will attend in person or via Zoom. Please register at [www.ppfv.org/annual-meeting](http://www.ppfv.org/annual-meeting)

YOU'RE INVITED

TO THE

**ANNUAL MEETING**

OF

**PRESERVATION PARTNERS OF THE FOX VALLEY**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

**7:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

hosted by the Geneva History Museum  
113 South 3rd Street  
Geneva, IL 60134

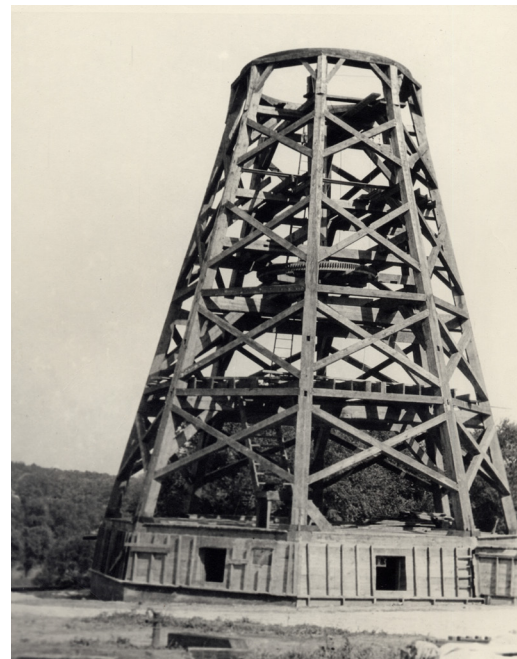
## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE FABYAN WINDMILL

Fabyan Forest Preserve was once part of the large country estate of George and Nelle Fabyan. They came to the Fox River Valley in the early 1900s and bought a farmhouse with 10 acres on the west bank of the Fox River. Over the following 20 years, they acquired 300-plus acres and developed the property into a fabulous estate they called "Riverbank." After their deaths in 1936 and 1939, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County purchased the estate—now Fabyan Forest Preserve.

On the east side of Fabyan Forest Preserve, on Route 25, stands the majestic **Fabyan Windmill**. The **68-foot, 5-story** structure was originally built near what is now Lombard between 1850 and 1860 by Louis Blackhaus, a German craftsman. **In 1914, it was purchased by George Fabyan for about \$8,000 and moved to Riverbank.**

Many years after the Fabyans' deaths, the Windmill had fallen into disrepair. Third-generation Dutch Windmill Maker, Lucas Verbij, was contracted by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County to tackle the tough job of restoring the Windmill. According to Verbij,

**"The Fabyan Windmill is the best example of an authentic Dutch windmill found in the U.S.** It's a treasure. Restoring the Fabyan Windmill was as much an honor as it was a duty. The timing of the restoration project was critical, as the main beams of the tower were rotting. When you hardly have one old original U.S. windmill left, preserving what you have is so important. There is German, Swedish, and Dutch millwright work on this Windmill. It is one of the few in the world that is restored to operate by natural wind energy."



*Fabyan Windmill during reassembly, ca. 1914*

After years of planning and effort to restore the historic Fabyan Windmill to its original grandeur, including a trip to the Netherlands for authentic timber and gear work, the **Windmill made its public debut in June 2005 with a Grand Reopening Celebration.**

Roman numeral markings carved into the beams used in original reconstruction are still visible. It took 33 workers to build the foundation, mixing concrete by hand. The foundation is 42 inches deep and 26 inches thick. Inside the mill, the beams and shafts are of cypress wood and trimmed with black walnut. New wooden gears were built. At the top, or cap, of the mill is a huge, cogged wheel turned by wind blowing against the vanes (blades). The vanes are covered with canvas sails to catch the wind. The moving cog rotates a shaft running the height of the mill.

Several honors have been accorded the Fabyan Windmill. It is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**, and it was also **honored in 1980 by its selection to be on a U.S. Postal stamp**. This 15-cent stamp was part of a series of five American windmills included in a stamp booklet called WINDMILLS USA.

**The Forest Preserve District of Kane County trains volunteer millers and docents to run the mill and open it to the public.** The millers care for and operate the mill, while docents (guides) welcome visitors and share information about the history of the mill.

The Forest Preserve District is looking for individuals to train to be millers and guides. **If you are interested in helping as a Windmill volunteer, contact:**

Robb Cleave, FPDKC Volunteer Coordinator  
(630) 762-2741  
volunteer@kaneforest.com

Let him know you heard about it from Preservation Partners!



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These are some of the events we have scheduled for 2024—and there will likely be more!

Fabyan Estate	
May 5	Opening Celebration at the Villa and Garden
May 3 - Sept. 29	Villa and Garden open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday
May 11	Estate Walk
Jun. 21	Summer Solstice
Aug. 25	Japanese Lantern Festival (tentative)
Sept. 21	Estate Walk

Durant House and Sholes School	
Feb. 18	Ills and Cures and “The Schairer School”
Mar. 2-3	Maple Sugaring
Apr. 21	Old-Fashioned Games
May 5	Civil War Encampment I
May 13	First Day for Durant Garden Volunteers
Jun. 16	Tool and Textile Day
Jun. 24-27	Durant Day Camp
Jul. 21	Pickle Palooza
Aug. 18	Bread and Butter
Sep. 15	Applefest
Oct. 6	Civil War Encampment II
Nov. 17	Homemade for the Holidays
Dec. 7-8	Candlelight Open House and Christmas Pageant

## PPFV Staff

*Feel free to contact us with questions about PPFV, membership, or volunteering... or just to chat!*

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 FOX VALLEY

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1974 - 2024

More information  
 about PPFV's milestone  
 anniversary coming soon!