



Dunham Woods
RIDING CLUB

We warmly welcome you...

to the 'Dunham Woods Experience'—a beautifully unique historic location and clubhouse blend with excellent dining, social and recreational activities, and an environment that encourages the enjoyment of members, their families, and guests...creating life's lovely memories and enduring friendships.



Here at Dunham Woods Riding Club, we pride ourselves on the high quality of our club, the striking country views and outstanding services offered to our valued members and guests. We have worked hard over the years to become a vital part of the community, and in the process, we have earned recognition as one of the premier private clubs in the region.

We invite you

and your family to

explore all that

Dunham Woods Riding Club

has to offer.

We are a unique, private club of 130 members located in Wayne, Illinois, which is approximately 40 miles west of Chicago in the heart of the Fox River Valley. The club is known for its fine and casual dining, recreation amenities, and beautiful 43 secluded acres that create a relaxing ‘getaway’ environment for its members. Our Historic Clubhouse includes multiple dining rooms, a banquet size room, an ‘English Style’ Pub Bar, overnight rooms, and our Tennis Pro Shop.

On the grounds surrounding the Clubhouse are our pool, five clay tennis courts, a children’s playground, outside patio dining area, and two paddle tennis courts with a clubhouse. Currently, the club leases property to the Wayne Equestrian Center. Although not included in the Dunham Woods Riding Club membership, there are special rates for our members for riding lessons and the boarding of horses.

Dunham Woods Riding Club lives up to its historic past, while meeting the needs of today’s members and their families. The main clubhouse as well as all of the buildings on the property are consistently maintained and upgraded while adhering to historic preservation standards. The newer amenities, such as Corky’s, the lodge built in 2014, and the new Hunt kennel built in 2015 were both reviewed by the internal aesthetics committee and the Wayne Historic Sites Commission during the initial planning stages.

The club’s Board of Governors and the Strategic Planning Committee have developed long range plans with input from our annual members surveys, external consultants, and our various committees. Reconstruction of the front portico and a remodel of the entrance foyer were recently completed, and areas now under review are the expansion and upgrades to the pool area and the possible addition of a new members lounge. The board and members are dedicated to continuing traditions while updating the club with amenities that make Dunham Woods Riding Club truly unique.

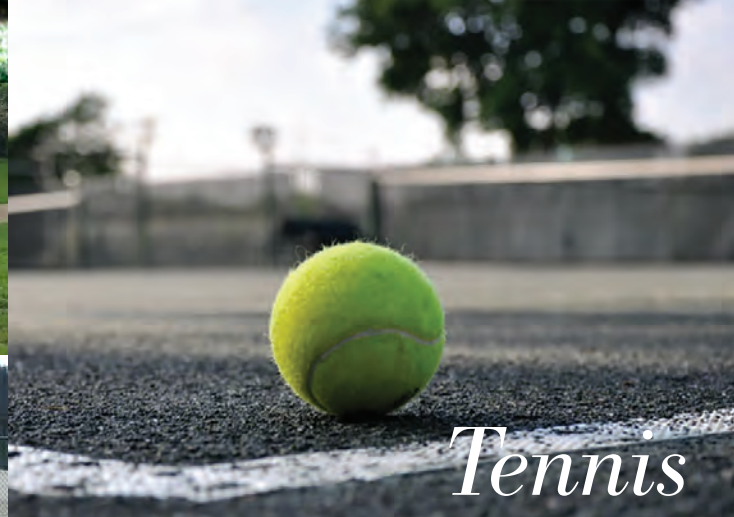
Weddings & Events



Historical



Stables



Tennis

Sports & Recreation



Arts & Culture



Golf

Wine & Dine



Racquet Sports



club:



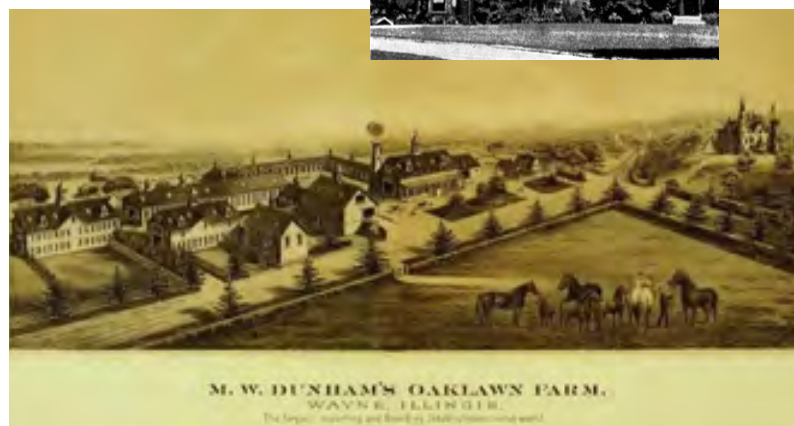
Swimming

Club History

Established in 1934, the Dunham Woods Riding Club has an interesting history that contributes to making it a truly special place in the Chicago suburbs.

The Beginnings: 1836 - 1934

Our building was constructed in 1836 by Solomon Dunham, who with his wife and six children, drove in a covered wagon from New York to find a home in the newly opened lands of Illinois. Known then as 'Oaklawn Farm' the original three hundred acres grew to nearly two thousand and the Dunhams became internationally known as an importer and breeder of French coach and Percheron horses, as many as five hundred being stabled here at one time. With the coming of the farm tractor, the importation and breeding of Percheron horses became a business of the past. In 1932 the old red brick house was restored and redecorated. The stables, stately woods and farmlands lent themselves to the increased interest in riding and in 1934 a group of Wayne and Geneva residents formed the Dunham Woods Riding Club, leasing the original Dunham home.



Dunham Woods Riding Club on the National Register of Historic Places

Dunham 'Castle' across the road built by Mark Dunham

'Oaklawn Farm,' original three hundred acres

1836	1881	1934	1961	1979	2014
The history of Dunham Woods Riding Club began when our building was constructed in 1836 by Solomon Dunham, who with his wife and six children, drove in a covered wagon from New York to find a home in the newly opened lands of Illinois.	The French châteaux styled Dunham 'Castle' across the road was built by Mark Dunham who was internationally known as an importer and breeder of French coach and Percheron horses. The size of his farm was 2,000 acres with visits from guests such as Cyrus McCormick, George Pullman, Daniel Burnham and Marshall Fields.	The club was founded in 1934 by a group of residents of both Wayne and Geneva, Illinois who leased the original Dunham brick home known as the 'Inn.' Joy Morton, of Morton Salt fame, was one of the early presidents of Dunham Woods Riding Club.	The Wayne-DuPage Hunt purchased additional land, kennels, and upper barn in the name of Dunham Woods Riding Club. This purchase increased the size of the club to 43 acres, and remains this large today.	The four corners comprising the intersection of Army Trail Road and Dunham Road, including the 'Castle' and Dunham Woods Riding Club, were accepted and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.	In honor of our club's 20th president, Corwith Hamill, a newly constructed multi-purpose building was named 'Corky's.' This beautiful lodge-styled space serves our paddle courts and is a new special events amenity for our members.

The Story Continues: 1950-1979

In 1950 the club purchased the residence, lower barn, swimming pool, tennis courts and land. A bond issue was sold to the members in 1957 for the purpose of adding the Grey Room, Dining Room and constructing a new kitchen. All the bonds were subsequently paid off prior to maturity. In 1961 the Wayne-DuPage Hunt was instrumental in purchasing more land from Dunham, Inc., including the kennels and upper barn. The purchase was made in the name of Dunham Woods Riding Club. Even more acreage was purchased in 1975. These later acquisitions, with the barns, riding rings, indoor ring, outside course, tenant house and the new pole barn are leased by the Wayne-DuPage Hunt. In 1979 the Dunham Woods Riding Club, including the four corners at the intersection of Army Trail and Dunham Roads, together with the Castle and outbuildings, was mentioned for and accepted into the National Register of Historic Places.



Dunham Woods
RIDING CLUB

*A day at the club provides endless opportunities for members and guests of all ages to appreciate time with family and friends in a special and unique environment. The **summer months** bring nonstop action with tennis activities for all levels and ages, drills & lessons with our seasoned Pro or competitive matches. Lively pétanque games, a riding lesson, a dip in the pool or cheer on the kids as they compete in swim team. Our younger members can enjoy their days both structured and unstructured, from summer day camp to tennis/swim/riding lessons to just running around the playground and splashing in the pool. In the **winter months** the action continues on our two Paddle Tennis courts, and kids can enjoy sledding or other snowy fun on the property.*

TENNIS

The Club has five, meticulously maintained clay courts. There is an awning-covered viewing area with new comfortable seating and a snack bar nearby. Our tennis professional and staff organize recreational and competitive events for all levels of play. There is plenty of open time for casual play with friends or join one of the drills. The **Tennis Pro Shop**, located in the lower level of the Clubhouse with a walkout entrance to the courts, is stocked with tennis apparel, accessories, sundries, and is also a great place to restring your racquet or purchase a new model.

DRESS CODE: Tennis whites

Five Clay Courts // Junior & Adult Programs // Covered Viewing Area // Pro Shop

Adult Tennis Programs:

- Ladies Travel Teams and Drills
- Weekend Men's Match Play
- Tuesday/Thursday Night Mixed Drills
- Adult Beginner Lessons/Stroke Clinic
- Round Robin Play with Lunch

PADDLE TENNIS

The Club has two courts and an adjoining clubhouse complete with comfortable seating, large screen TVs, bar, restrooms, and all of the equipment you need to get started, whether you are a beginner or experienced player. This sport has really grown in popularity with our members and is great exercise for those of all ages. Our pro conducts both private lessons and group drills. Our courts have been recently resurfaced and new lighting has been installed for night play. The **Corky's** clubhouse is beautifully located with great views from the covered back porch area, complete with patio furniture and an outdoor grill.

Two Courts // Recently Resurfaced // Adjoining Clubhouse // Lighting for Night Play // Private Lessons & Group Play

PÉTANQUE

This game has developed a loyal following at our club. Similar to the Italian bocce ball, pétanque originated in France in the early 1900s where players toss 'boules' (steel balls) at a 'piglet' or 'cochennet' (small wooden ball) until they hit and 'end.' Then they play again! **Wednesday Night Pétanque** starts in May for anyone interested in learning the game or having a cocktail next to the 'boulodrome.' Experienced members group play on Sunday evenings, and host other clubs or travel throughout the season.

SWIMMING

Our twenty-five yard pool is the place to relax and enjoy a refreshing dip during the summer months. Poolside beverage service is available as is casual takeout dining served by the poolside lawn, and kids can grab a bite at the nearby snack bar grill. Adults can enjoy swimming laps and our swim instructors are available for children to take lessons or practice with the swim team. Of course, it's a great setting for summer birthday parties! The Club maintains a swim staff at all times, consisting of a pool manager, lifeguards, and instructors.

25 Yard Pool // Private Swim Lessons // Lifeguards On Duty // Snack Bar // Playground

GOLF

Our club maintains a special reciprocity agreement with the Geneva Golf Club located in the heart of Geneva. The nine-hole course is challenging & beautifully maintained with multiple tee boxes to accommodate every level of play. You can walk the course, use pull carts, or rent motorized carts for a fee.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Our club's property is home to the Wayne Equestrian Center, which is a separate organization providing English riding lessons, training, boarding and horse sales. The trainers are devoted to providing a healthy environment, focusing on the welfare of the horse and rider as a top priority. They want their riders to enjoy their social pleasure while developing and refining their horsemanship skills. Instruction is provided for all levels from beginner through advanced on one of their well-trained school horses or the rider's own horse. In addition to the 50 stalls located in two barns, the center has a heated indoor riding arena with a heated observation room, two outdoor turf show rings, two watered outdoor sand arenas, and acres of manicured grass fields for riding. Special rates are available for the members of Dunham Woods.

Riding Areas—Heated indoor riding arena with a heated observation room // Two watered outdoor sand arenas // Derby field with natural jumps and a bank // Acres of manicured grass fields for riding // Two turf show rings // Access to many trail options: Illinois Prairie Path, Pratt-Wayne Woods, and Forest Preserve

Stables—Main Barn: 35 stalls, recently re-based // Brand new rubber stall mats // Automatic water cup in each stall // Lower Barn: 15 oversized stalls // N/S main aisle makes for fantastic breezeway // Tack room

Amenities—Newly updated wash rack // Six grated limestone turn out areas // Vending // Outdoor brick patio with picnic tables // Two tack/trunk rooms



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A few steps into the foyer of the main clubhouse gives most first-time visitors an unexpected breath of delight—the warm, inviting atmosphere exudes historic charm and tradition. A feast for the senses, the décor and artifacts on display speak to the property’s equestrian history while the scent of the fireplaces is reminiscent of cozy nights spent in an old New England inn. Voices of present conversations emanating from any one of the dining rooms juxtapose with photos of the past that speak to the continuity of shared experiences that carry on through the decades. The clubhouse, officially on the National Registry of Historic Places, is the heart of Dunham Woods Riding Club—the portal to its many avenues of recreational life.

DINING

The Dunham Woods Riding Club has an outstanding food and beverage program providing imaginative cuisine and great service, with our historic setting as a backdrop. Whether grabbing a quick lunch after a game of tennis on the patio or celebrating a special occasion in one of the tastefully appointed dining rooms, you’ll enjoy sumptuous entrees, salads, sandwiches and desserts.

With a longstanding commitment to fine dining at every meal throughout the year, our management carefully selects our resident culinary staff. Our Chefs’ resumes have included training at renowned facilities like New York’s Culinary Institute of America and positions at notable country clubs and restaurants including the Beverly Country Club, The Standard Club and the James Beard award-winning restaurant Crofton on Wells. Our Chef keeps the ever-changing seasonal menus fresh, creative and delicious, while honoring the history of those DWRC member favorites that have been loyal mainstays on the menu through the decades!

When making a reservation, one of the hardest questions to answer might be, “Where would you like to sit?” The many rooms of the historic clubhouse is one of the features that makes Dunham Woods Riding Club so unique:

The Percheron Room—Make a reservation for a formal meal meant to impress, surrounded by beautiful works of art and a gorgeous view of the grounds.

The Hunt Room—Warm up near the potbelly stove and enjoy a casual meal with the family—and ask for the kids menu! Look at the historical foxhunt photos and discover a bit about the club’s history.

The Parlor—Reminiscent of eras-gone-by, members feel as though they’re being served in their own home. Surprisingly versatile for families, gatherings of friends or business meetings, this private dining room is elegant and unique.

The Bar—Truly a signature element of DWRC, and set in cozy, traditional Old English style, the historic Bar is like no other. A wonderful place to stop before or after dinner with friends, members can both dine off the full menu and enjoy craft cocktails, microbrews, and an evolving wine menu that makes this arguably the best bar in the Fox Valley.

The Tack Room—With its decidedly pub-like atmosphere just beyond the Bar, this charming, wood-paneled private room is a second option for smaller dinner parties or meetings. It also offers separate access to the patio.

DINING AL FRESCO

The Patio

Our scenic patio with 200-year-old oak and cottonwood trees is the perfect place to enjoy a wonderful meal or savor a refreshing beverage in the summer air. Members can have lunch or dinner after playing tennis or relaxing at the pool. Live entertainment is scheduled at various times during the summer months.

The Veranda

Just off the ballroom known as the Grey Room is the lovely, canopied veranda overlooking the clay tennis courts. Watch some tennis while you dine. Perfect for more intimate gatherings or private parties.

Corky's: A League of Its Own

This special venue, named after a renowned member lauded as a champion for the local nature conservancy, is a unique clubhouse annex. Adjacent to the paddle tennis courts, it is the hub for DWRC paddle players, providing welcome warmth and respite after a lively winter match. A truly versatile space, Corky's is enjoyed year-round for member events, parties, casual gatherings, cookouts, or a quiet place to relax. With a cozy, lodge-like feel, the large room is anchored by a grand stone fireplace and the comforts of lounge seating, as well as dining tables. Members have use of large screen TVs, a bar, kitchen, grill & firepit, and restrooms. Rocking chairs on the large covered back veranda offer scenic views off of the equestrian fields and arenas.

CELEBRATIONS

Holidays at the Club—For many families, holiday traditions are anchored by a celebration together at the club. DWRC offers members a lovely setting in which to gather, toast a festive occasion, share a delicious meal, and greet other member families. It's where memories are made and traditions carried on from one generation to the next.

Re-Opening Party—After a brief January hiatus, the club re-opens to its members with a fun & festive kick-off party.

Valentine's Day Dinner—Couples are treated to a candle-lit dinner in a most elegant, romantic setting.

Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt—A family favorite, Easter brunch ushers in Spring featuring a lively egg hunt, and petting zoo.

Mother's Day Grand Brunch Buffet—A very special brunch in honor of a very special person! The kitchen brings out its culinary finest in celebration of Mom.

Thanksgiving—Bring your heirloom carving set and platter for a whole turkey served table side with family-style sides.

Children's Christmas Party—A themed luncheon where kids are the guests of honor, with a special visit & photo-op with Santa in magnificent, Victorian garb includes themed decorations and live entertainment.

Christmas Dinner Dance—An annual favorite, members toast the holiday season together in style with a fabulous sit-down dinner followed by dancing featuring the talents of a multi-piece live band.

Christmas Eve Chili—This long-standing unique tradition offers members a chance to stop in and warm up before Christmas with family or friends with Chef's famous chili.

The club's Entertainment Committee works year-round to create Special Days & Festivals (Derby Day, Harvest Party, Memorial Day, The Summer Gala, Fourth of July).

Overnight Accommodations

One of the unique aspects of the clubhouse is its overnight accommodations for our members and guests. Non-resident members, such as those who live in Chicago, can take advantage of these convenient overnight quarters while enjoying special club evening galas or equestrian pursuits. With the charm of a historic bed & breakfast, each of the 8 guest rooms has its own individual décor and layout, with luxury linens and antique furniture. The design of the separate men's and women's bathrooms have been recently updated and are well-appointed.

Weddings & Special Events

Dunham Woods Riding Club is an impressive venue and has been hosting receptions for over 75 years. Whether the event is a corporate function, wedding, graduation party, milestone birthday celebration, or charity fundraisers, our experienced staff is adept at partnering with members to plan their event in style, ensuring that every detail is perfect for the occasion.

Guests are consistently delighted with their experiences in this elegant and sophisticated historic setting.

Wedding & Special Event Information Packet available upon request.



The facilities at Dunham Woods Riding Club offer a world of discovery and fun to its youngest members. A park-like setting exists in the grassy quadrangle linking the fenced-in playground to the tennis courts to the pool to the clubhouse. Parents can dine on the patio or veranda while kids are secure and visible as they play.

JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAMS

Dunham Woods Riding Club has a long and impressive history of developing talented tennis players, many of whom go on to compete in USTA tournaments and the college divisions. Whether it's just to learn the basics of the game or to advance a skilled player to the next level, the DWRC tennis pro and staff are passionately dedicated to the success of its junior players. Programs include:

Super Excellence Program

This group is designed for JV/varsity high school and USTA tournament players. Focus will be on stroke production, match play and strategy. Our staff includes college and varsity-level high school players to improve the overall match play during this group and make it very competitive. Tournament level instruction will include the key elements for the core development of competitive tennis players: technical, physical, mental, and strategic/tactical.

Competition Program

This program is geared towards juniors working to improve their rallying skills, consistency and match play. It focuses on technical skill building, physical training components and introduces strategic elements of point play. Inter-club matches are included for those players who are ready for competitive match play and to start practicing for USTA local tournaments.

Quickstart Program

(10 and under) This program is for the beginning or developing player aged 10 and under. It uses the USTA Quickstart™ format which emphasizes interactive rallying and learning while playing the game rather than standing in lines. Basic strokes are introduced and, for the older players in this age range, scoring is introduced as well. Players learn on a scaled-down court to make the game size appropriate and easier to succeed.

SWIM TEAM

The Dunham Dolphins swim team competes in the North Suburban Country Club Conference against four other clubs. The season starts with practices and meets in early June and culminates in the exciting all-day Swim Conference Meet held at one of the clubs.

The **Junior Team** is for younger and beginning swimmers (ages 8 & under) and focuses on stroke development as well as starts, turns and finishes. Many little Polliwogs just learning to swim are amongst the loudest to be cheered on as they compete for ribbons at inter-club swim meets!

The **Elite Team** is for the older age groups and for those swimmers with more advanced swimming skills. Practices include swimming technique work (using all of the strokes), strength, endurance & interval training, and start, turn & finish practice to prepare for swim competitions.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

DWRC offers a counselor-supervised drop-off program for members' children and grandchildren ages 4-10. Day camp is held for 6 weeks throughout the summer, filled with sports, games, swimming, horseback riding, creative craft activities and nutritious lunches! Every day is jam-packed with fun, while parents get a break and can enjoy a tennis lesson or relax by the pool! The session runs Tuesday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

EQUESTRIAN

Riding lessons for kids (beginner through advanced) are available on the property and run by the staff of the Wayne Equestrian Center, a separate affiliate organization. Additionally, the Wayne-DuPage Hunt Pony Club, a local chapter of the national U.S. Pony Club organization, holds meetings, day camps, rallies and events in cooperation with the Wayne Equestrian Center.

For more information, please visit waynequestriancenter.com or contact WEC at 630.797.5910.



Culture and Interest Clubs

EPICUREAN

Dunham Woods Riding Club offers its members many opportunities to expand their palates and cellars through our commitment to gourmet food, garden-to-table ingredients, evolving wine menus, and regularly-scheduled wine tastings throughout the year. The club has been graced with visits from renowned wineries such as Duckhorn, Grgich Hills, Grassini, and Kinsella, and members benefit from opportunities to order wine in quantity with special wholesale pricing. Wine-centered dining opportunities include the spectacular **Gourmet Wine Dinner** held each November. More than just a fine meal, it is truly a culinary experience—with multiple courses and wine pairings presented by a special guest vintner. On the casual side, there is also the **First Friday Wine Dinners** held throughout the year: created by members, for members, this is a fun group that gathers monthly to share and sample each other's wines. Dinner is served, bottles are passed, and friendships forged!

LITERARY & THE ARTS

Whether you consider yourself a history buff, art connoisseur, music aficionado or just someone who enjoys an occasional dose of culture, DWRC has something to satisfy your interests. It starts right on the walls of the Clubhouse, with the beautiful equestrian art collection. Members can attend a Heritage Night, where they can learn from esteemed fellow members about the origins and meaning of the artworks and objects displayed around the club. Other cultural opportunities include:

Book Club—Satisfy your literary appetite at the DWRC Book Club. Members enjoy lunch and lively exchanges over monthly selections.

Live Music Nights—Catch some live music on the patio while you dine, or attend a special event like Ravinia Night where members can bring lawn chairs and pick up a catered picnic basket from the Clubhouse and enjoy a live orchestral performance from the porch at Corky's.

Cliff Dwellers—Members can take advantage of our reciprocity with Chicago's Cliff Dwellers Club, a private club for members who are engaged in or support the fine and the performing arts. Guests can enjoy lecture series, musical performances, dining, and Millennium Park views from the rooftop terrace.

Art Institute of Chicago Lectures—DWRC has been a host location for lectures sponsored by the Art Institute of Chicago's Far West Community membership group, with topics like "Art in the Era of Downton Abby," "Art Forgeries," "Mirroring China's Past," "Egyptomania," and "Historic Interiors."

questrian Heritage

WAYNE EQUESTRIAN CENTER—*Exceptional training for both horse and rider*

Our club's property is home to the Wayne Equestrian Center, which is a separate organization providing English riding lessons, training, boarding and horse sales. The trainers are devoted to providing a healthy environment, focusing on the welfare of the horse and rider as a top priority. They want their riders to enjoy their social pleasure while developing and refining their horsemanship skills. Instruction is provided for all levels from beginner through advanced on one of their well-trained school horses or the rider's own horse. In addition to the 50 stalls located in two barns, the center has a heated indoor riding arena with a heated observation room, two outdoor turf show rings, two watered outdoor sand arenas, and acres of manicured grass fields for riding. Special rates are available for the members of Dunham Woods.

WAYNE-DUPAGE HUNT—*The traditional sport of mounted fox hunting*

Our club's property is also home to the Wayne-DuPage Hunt (WDH), a separate, not-for-profit organization created by a merger of the Wayne Hunt and the DuPage Hunt in the 1930s. WDH was officially recognized by the Master of Foxhounds Association in 1940. WDH is a "drag hunt," which means that instead of hunting "live," a scent is carefully laid out on a planned route before each hunt. Care is taken to simulate live hunting, while staying within the parameters of roads, residential areas, etc. The hunt rides over private and public land that is graciously provided by the residents of Wayne and the DuPage and Kane County Forest Preserve Districts. Hunting begins in late summer and continues until early December, but hound care on the kennel property and training are year-round activities. The Wayne-DuPage Hunt presents the annual Dunham Woods Horse Show in September.

WAYNE AREA CONSERVANCY FOUNDATION—*Encouraging preservation of open space in the Wayne area*

Much of the club's property, including barns and other buildings, is home to the Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation (WACF). Started over 20 years ago, this organization's mission is to encourage the preservation of the open space in the Wayne area. The goal was to preserve the heritage of equestrian activities and the lifestyle that residents of the Wayne area had come to cherish. Working closely with the DuPage County Forest Preserve, utilizing volunteers, and through generous donations, the WACF has been able to increase the open space in and around Wayne and has also helped preserve some of the historic buildings that are so integral to the Wayne heritage. The WACF also proudly sponsors the Wayne-DuPage Hunt Pony Club.

