



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran

Autumn 2022, Vol. 41, No. 4



Chatter from the Chair: Looking Forward

I hope each of you have made time for summer fun and reflection. I'm here on the Des Plaines River on a special trip that is called the Riverside Regatta, a tribute for Scuffy Gross, my dad, who served that community with volunteer efforts and as their township assessor for many years. Our open spaces are more important than ever as we have taken solace in them over the last two years during the difficult times of the pandemic. Thank you for being a member of the Sierra Club working to Explore, Enjoy and Protect our planet for all inhabitants.

Now we are moving forward! CEJA is passed! YAYYYYYY and we have so much information to share about the new bill. The River Prairie Group is partnering with the DuPage Clean Energy Coalition to present a synopsis of it, so look for further information in this newsletter.

Our water collectors are the unsung heroes of our water testing program. This is one of the longest standing programs in which the RPG has been engaged. Co-chair of that project, Kathleen Fischer, has put together a marvelous article for you on the efforts of water sampling in both our local rivers and lakes. Three cheers for those dedicated folks who trudge out in the early morning hours to gather samples to test for our local water quality.

In addition, we have a little item called the MIDTERMS coming up. YIKES! Endorsements, working on campaigns, and fundraising are all very important. One fun fact to share is that we actually have bipartisan endorsements, so check into Linda Sullivan's article on the upcoming elections for more information on our political work.

Let me remind you that not only do we have political elections, but also elections for our executive committee for the offices of our River Prairie Group and the Illinois Chapter. Watch your mail box for a paper mailer from the Chapter that will have endorsement information for political elections and also directions for our Sierra Club elections this fall.

There is much more in this newsletter with information from outings, programs, and other activities. Thank you to each of you for your membership and for your support of our work. Please let me know if I can help you to be more involved as we look forward to our healthy environmental future.

JOIN US!

Illinois
Clean Jobs
Coalition

**CEJA AMBASSADOR
PRESENTATION**

REGISTER TODAY
River Prairie Group and DuPage
Clean Energy Coalition present
details of the Climate and Equity
Jobs Act! Come Learn!
The Glen Ellyn Historical Center
800 Main St. 7:00 pm

Wednesday
28TH
September 2022

TO REGISTER, VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ILLINOIS/RIVER-PRAIRIE](https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie)

Vote Like the Fate of the Earth Depends On It!

By Linda Sullivan

Did you vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidates in 2020?

If you did, you made it possible for DuPage legislators **Terra Costa Howard, Anne Stava Murray, Laura Ellman, Suzy Glowiak, Maura Hirschauer, and Karina Villa** to pass a nation-leading climate change law, the **Clean and Equitable Jobs Act**. Your vote made it possible for them to pass laws regulating coal ash pollution that is contaminating Lake Michigan and drinking water throughout the state, a ban on burning the cancer-causing forever chemical PFAS, and so much more. [More...](#)



Sierra Club Members' Meet River Prairie Group's Endorsed Candidates Night!

By Linda Sullivan

Be part of our team!

The November election will have huge consequences for our planet and democracy. Sierra Club members are invited to meet River Prairie Group's great slate of endorsed candidates on Zoom on September 8 at 7:00 p.m. Learn their positions, why we endorsed them and how you can help get them elected. Come with your questions and your curiosity! Be part of our team!

You must register to attend this important event. Sign up here: [Registration](#)



Recent Progress for Monarchs in DuPage

By Lonnie Morris

It's September and the super generation of monarch butterflies is beginning its journey south for the winter. It's sometimes called the Methuselah generation because monarchs born in late summer live from September to March, the time needed to migrate thousands of miles to Mexico, then rest for a few months before beginning the trip north in spring.

This is the time for the last monarch sighting of the season. You can see them searching for nectar, riding the wind south, or roosting at night. As the butterflies leave Illinois, let's take a moment to look back on how their summer stay in DuPage has been made safer and healthier over the past seven years.

In 2015, [DuPage Monarch Project](#) began with a group of concerned volunteers ready to take action to protect monarchs and pollinators. They knew something serious was happening, and local solutions were needed. [More...](#)



Clean Energy Comes to DuPage

October 19, 2022

7:00 pm

**Glen Ellyn History Center
800 Main Street, Glen Ellyn**

We welcome Daniel Hebreard of the Forest Preserve of DuPage and Sheila Rutledge of DuPage County Environmental Committee!

As this article is being written, Senator Joe Manchin has announced that he now supports a sweeping clean energy package. By the time you read this, we will know if President Biden's climate agenda was passed into law, and that federal legislation will take a huge bite out of greenhouse gas emissions.

In Illinois, we passed CEJA, The Climate Equity and Jobs Act last fall, so our state is poised to begin huge projects as well to benefit Clean Energy here. You will see a flyer in this newsletter with an invitation to the September 28 program outlining those initiatives.

HOWEVER, both DuPage County and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage have been working on sustainability for nearly a decade! The River Prairie Group has a great presentation planned for you on October 19, 2022 on this very topic. Daniel Hebreard, president of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage and Sheila Rutledge, chair of the Environmental Committee of DuPage County will meet with us to outline what each of these entities is doing to lessen the footprint for their governing bodies here in DuPage.

Please join us! Sign up [here](#).



RPG Water Monitoring Project

By Kathleen Fischer

For more than 20 years, Sierra Club River Monitoring Project volunteers have sampled and tested local streams in DuPage County. Currently, three sites on the West Branch of the DuPage River, four sites on the East Branch, two sites on Salt Creek, and four Forest Preserve lakes are sampled and tested periodically throughout the year. This means that volunteer water collectors travel to the sites early in the morning, regardless of the weather, and lower a bucket into the water to retrieve a sample to deliver for testing by volunteer water analysts. [More...](#)



DuPage Air Monitoring Project

By Jeff Gahris

Air pollution in the United States has been a vexing problem since the EPA was established in 1970. We have seen a substantial improvement in air quality overall, but there are still localized areas where issues persist. Often these are in environmental justice communities.

Can it be that we have this problem in DuPage County? [More...](#)



If You Build It They Will Come

By Bruce Blake, DuPage Monarch Project, Garden Specialist

Photos by Bruce Blake

One of the environmental programs the Sierra Club, River Prairie Group, belongs to is the DuPage Monarch Project - <https://dupagemonarchs.com>. Founded and chaired by Lonnie Morris, the Project is a cooperation among several groups: Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, The Conservation Foundation, Wild Ones-Greater DuPage, and many other municipalities and park districts. Our main purpose is to provide education and to promote increasing Monarch butterflies and their habitat in DuPage County. [More...](#)



Hiking McHenry County

By Marlene Bertolozzi

Having spent a lot of time hiking suburban Chicago, I was surprised to find there are hidden charms scattered around McHenry County. On July 7, we hiked through Pleasant Valley Conservation Area with its somewhat steep forest trails, a small lake, and rolling meadows. [More...](#)



Last Word

There are no
passengers on
spaceship earth.
We are all crew.
- Marshall
McLuhan

GET OUTSIDE

Enjoy the outdoors by joining our upcoming local outings! [Sign up here.](#)



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Follow us on Facebook for news, events and updates on the work we do to keep our communities green!

[Donate to Sierra Club Illinois Today!](#)