



# RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

## DuPage Sierran

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## Chatter from the Chair

Summertime is ending. It sure has been one for the books! From this photo you can see a good part of what drives my activism in Sierra Club; my three grandchildren and a tiny bit of my hubby peaking on the side of the shot. (Yeah, we are not too good with the art of taking a selfie.) With evidence of climate change impacting us here in the Midwest through heat and drought, activism seems more important than ever. In this newsletter we will share some of the work that the River Prairie Group is doing here in DuPage to help mitigate this issue.

Clean energy is an essential piece of cleaning the air we breathe. We need to switch to electric appliances, so we are not reliant on dirty gas infiltrating our homes. Read [Jeff's article](#) on our upcoming September program with a presentation from CUB, The Citizen's Utility Board, and how we can clean up our homes from fossil fuels. In addition, there is an [article](#) about members of our RPG leadership who are working to encourage our local school officials to adopt electric vehicles for their fleets.

Habitat is drastically impacted by Climate Change as well. Biodiversity and healthy native ecosystems are essential for species survival. Check out the [article](#) that encourages you to register your monarch-friendly habitat to be counted as part of the solution. We feature the Monarch as our colorful flagship and also realize that in saving it, we are supporting species such as native bees, birds, and the many plants that support them. This article shows how we here in DuPage can be counted with the statewide and national effort to help our neighborhood ecosystems.

Lastly, please consider getting out to enjoy the wild spaces in our area. We present outings on our calendar, which you can find on the [RPG website](#) and below. One upcoming special one is featured in an article included [here](#) . Check out how you can take a “Hike with a Representative” and chat about concerns and hear about her work in Springfield. As you walk, paddle, or bike in nature, your spirit is revived. For me as I get out in nature, I gain strength to work more to protect the environment so my family members will also have the benefit of these beautiful experiences as they grow older.

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## Is Now the Time to Electrify My Home?

River Prairie Group program meeting  
Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn

Join us as the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) explains our options, the latest federal and state financial incentives, and how to pursue the best strategy for reducing our carbon footprint and managing our utility expenses. We will also view an engaging video that makes a compelling argument for why electrification matters, and share our individual stories about this transition to a healthier lifestyle. This will be a great time to share ideas and strategies. Register [here!](#)

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## Clean Air for our School Children Electric School Buses in our Future!

Janice Guider of the Executive Committee of the River Prairie Group has led the charge for advocacy of replacing our dirty aging diesel school bus fleets with modern clean electric buses. How is she doing this? [More...](#)

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## Healthy Habitats - Essential for Diversity

Lonnie Morris, our vibrant volunteer coordinator of the DuPage Monarch Project, visited DuPage this summer to photograph some of the waystations established here in our communities. It was an amazing experience to watch her exclaim over the various species of native plants as she discovered them in the prairies and parks we visited. We found thriving areas and some that were being overtaken by encroaching nonnative species. One fact was obvious as we roamed the county, humans will have to lend a hand if these areas will be able to thrive and support vibrant communities of biodiversity. Weeds easily creep in, and the fragile systems become unbalanced with the native plants withering away.

Find more about Monarch Waystations [here](#).

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## Friends of the Forest Preserves

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing ways for you to help care for our forest preserves. While the Forest Preserve District was created over 100 years ago, the Friends was incorporated as the District's philanthropic partner in 2010. Many visitors who enjoy the preserves look for a way to give back by supporting various projects and initiatives. Perennial favorites for philanthropic support are care for the injured and orphaned native animals at Willowbrook Wildlife Center and forest preserve greatest needs, including habitat restoration, wildlife preservation, green energy development, and environmental sustainability.

Read about West Chicago Prairie [here](#).

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## Take a Hike With a Rep on Sept. 17!

Have you ever wanted to share your thoughts with your state representative? Do you like to stroll in nature and visit with other friendly souls? Would you like an expert naturalist to share tidbits about unique plants and trees along the trail? Consider joining the River Prairie Group of Sierra Club outing with Janet Yang Rohr, State Representative from District 41. More details and [signup](#).



## Reducing Our Reliance on Plastics to save the Planet

Join us October 25, 7:00 pm  
Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 N Main Street, Glen Ellyn  
Register [here](#)

There are many issues facing our planet at this moment including climate change, threatened species and habitat, reliance on the finite resources of fossil fuels, and of course what do we do with our overburdened system of waste. Reducing our reliance on plastics is essential for our planet's survival. Anu Verma from Naperville is certainly doing her share getting the message out. She has spoken at conferences in Europe, here in the US... [More...](#)

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## Our Packed Calendar of Events

### Calendar Summary

We have a full slate of outings, programs and events planned for you. Our calendar lineup:

**Sept. 17, 1 pm** – Hike along the west branch of the DuPage River in Naperville with Rep. Janet Yang-Rohr. Sign up [here](#).

**Sept. 27, 7 pm** – RPG program meeting. Topic “How to Electrify Your Home.” Sign up [here](#).

**Oct 25, 7 pm** – RPG program meeting. Topic: “Reducing Our Reliance on Plastic to Save the Planet” Sign up [here](#).

**Other dates** – Service outings at Glacial Ridge with our own DuPage Forest Preserve site steward Bruce Blake, plus a day hike at the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve in Cook County. See our web page [calendar](#).

**Join the Solar Tour** – A number of Sierra Club members have solar homes open for public viewing. If you have solar panels, there is still some time to sign up for the Solar Tour and share your solar story! If not, take the Solar Tour and meet solar homeowners who would like to share their experiences. The Solar Tour is sponsored by the Illinois Solar Energy Association. Find details [here](#).



## Final Word...

### The Garden

*By Margaret Nuccio*

Embrace Mother Earth and  
feel her heartbeat.

Voluptuous mother  
your grass and flowers  
carpet my walk  
and lighten the heart.  
Your friendly trees  
shade the home  
and rain down  
bountiful fruit.

How do I return  
the praise that I owe?  
I kneel at your feet  
and dirty my hands.  
I tend tiny buds  
and guide the unruly.  
I pass on your goodness  
to all who walk by.

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## GET OUTSIDE

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



[Facebook](#)

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

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