



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

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Chatter from the Chair

It's coming folks, I promise—spring will be here in no time. I always look forward to my first bloomers, the yellow aconite. Yes, I know they are non-native, but they do provide nectar that I have seen the pollinators craving in the early warming days of spring. Speaking of “craving,” don't you just want to get out and start hiking?! Let me begin by highlighting [three brief articles](#) in this newsletter that invite you to join our experienced leaders in the field on local hikes. If these dates don't work for you, please visit the [RPG website](#) frequently to check out our calendar for outings, programs, and best of all, workdays with Bruce at the Glen Ellyn Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve. What a great way to hang with like-minded folks, help the environment, and learn how to better care for your own personal property. [Read more...](#)



Enjoy Our Outings Program

Check out these popular outings:

March 25 - Early spring hike at Stone Barn/
Nachusa Grasslands

April 15 - White Pines spring flower hike

April 29 - Franklin Creek day hike

See our blog for further details of these upcoming outings in March and April [here](#). Spaces are limited and registration is required. Sign up today through our Website [event calendar](#).

Looking for an opportunity to help restore a special natural area? Sign up for the [Glacial Ridge outings](#) in Glen Ellyn led by the site steward, our own Bruce Blake.



It's time for Illinois to take the lead on Electric Vehicles

Illinois can help grow its economy and we can all breathe cleaner air if we put into effect simple standards for diesel and zero-emission trucks. This matters because every day, heavy trucks drive through our neighborhoods, past our schools, hospitals, and homes, spewing toxic pollution as they go. Elected officials have already set their sights on making our state a leader in electric vehicles. Governor Pritzker said Illinois should be “the best state in the nation to drive and manufacture an EV.”

What are clean truck standards? They have two parts. One, the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule, directs manufacturers to increase the share of new electric heavy-duty vehicles in Illinois over time. The other, the Heavy-Duty Low-NOx Omnibus (HDO) rule, sets standards for new diesel trucks to use modern engine technologies that emit less pollution. Read more here, <https://www.thedailyline.com/illinois-lead-electric-vehicles>



Woodland restoration: Burn piles, biochar, and carbon credits

I have long enjoyed winter woodland restoration projects, removing invasive honeysuckles and buckthorn. This work is critical if we want thriving oak forests in DuPage County. But I have often asked myself, why do we have to burn all of this biomass? Given the release of carbon and various air contaminants, I ask: Is there a better way?

[Read more...](#)



Prairie Food Co-op Announcement

It's been years in the making, and our hard work has finally paid off! We are thrilled to announce our store's official location at 837 S. Westmore-Meyers Rd, Lombard, in the Eastgate Shopping Center! [Read more...](#)



Sustainability and Healthy Landscapes in Naperville

The City of Naperville is working to ensure a healthy, sustainable, and resilient future for all who call it home, including current residents, future generations, and other species like the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.

Naperville's sustainability commitments span a range of subject areas and investments. [Read more...](#)



Meet Jenny Whidden, Climate Reporter

She spotlights effects of Climate Change on Northern IL Communities

Jennifer Whidden started her tenure as staff writer for the Daily Herald last summer, June 2022. After some experience with the Chicago Tribune, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and the New Jersey State Ledger, she landed here in Northern IL reporting for the Daily Herald with a focus on local impacts of climate change. Whidden works in tandem with reporters across the country focusing on local issues through philanthropically supported “Report for America.” She has written on a plethora of issues including protecting Lake Michigan, electrifying our school buses, the dangers of gas stoves, and utility rate increases. Meet Jenny!

Read our [interview with Jenny](#).



Willowbrook Wildlife Center Update

Join the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the River Prairie Group, and fellow wildlife fans to catch up on the exciting news about Willowbrook Wildlife Center’s master plan, which features a new wildlife rehabilitation clinic and visitor center set to open in 2024. Hear about what this net-zero facility will mean to our community. Then, discover how you can be a part of the fundraising efforts to support it and the high-quality services it provides. Register [here](#).



Last Word

“For all of us, becoming indigenous to a place means living as if your children’s future mattered, to take care of the land as if our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it.”

by Robin Wall Kimmerer ~ from *Braiding Sweetgrass*

GET OUTSIDE

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



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