

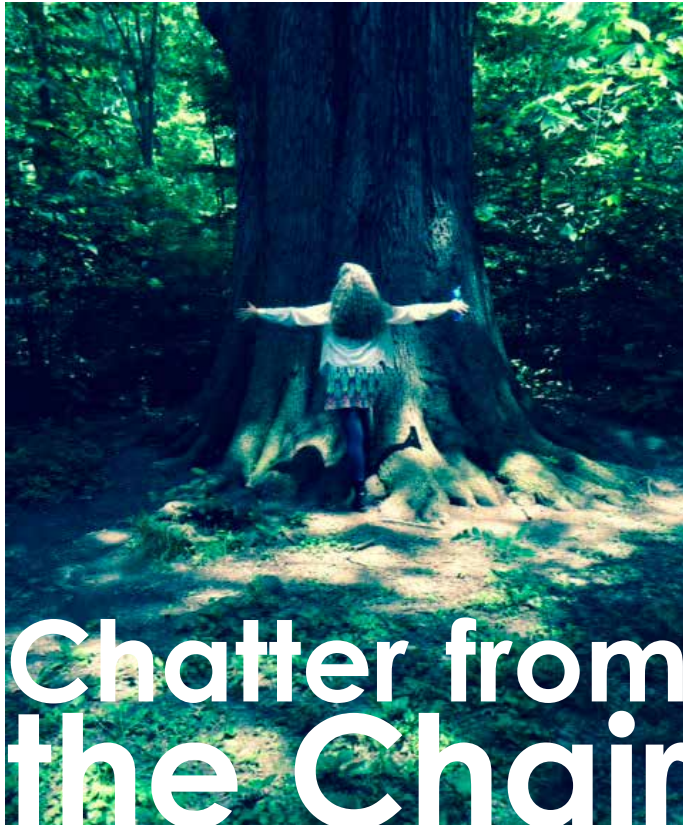


DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

Fall 2014

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Chatter from the Chair

With election season bearing down upon us, the River Prairie Group volunteers will be busy supporting our endorsed candidates. We have three endorsements at the DuPage County level and many more vying for Springfield seats. This is one way your Sierra Club membership really pays. After a thoughtful vetting process, we inform you which candidates we believe will help encourage an environmentally friendly agenda in their offices. You have an opportunity to get involved and phone bank, walk your neighborhood and let your neighbors know about these qualified and experienced candidates. Most importantly, make sure you vote!!! Please see the articles in this edition for information to jump into this important arena. If you are unsure of how to participate, email me at twnstr11@msn.com.

Kids and teachers are back at school, so they're really on my mind. More schools now, are setting up Green Teams or Eco-Clubs to involve youth in appreciation of the environment. This is an area the River Prairie Group wants to focus on in the coming

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DuPage Sierran

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[Click Here for the River Prairie Group on Facebook](#)

year. Enjoy the articles offered on this subject, but also keep in mind how you, yes YOU, may involve a younger person in this important effort. Their quick minds with creative spirits are sorely needed to help be the change for the future.

The River Prairie Group has a lot going on in our fall calendar. Programs are in the planning stage for September, October and November. Check the calendar in this issue for details, but also watch our website, Facebook, or library bulletin boards for dates and times. We also sponsor a workday where you can get involved at our restoration area and on the Illinois Prairie Path.

In addition, we plan to take part in two national

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Chatter from the Chair

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

efforts this fall. The Great March for Climate Action traveling from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. will be walking through DuPage County the first week of September. When they arrive, we will need to support the marchers by providing publicity, a meal or a rest spot. Watch for details.

Also the national Sierra Club is working with 350.org and founder Bill McKibben to stage a gigantic rally in New York City on September 21. This will be prior to a United Nations meeting to discuss climate issues. Save the date, and watch for bus information

organized by the Illinois Chapter or make your own arrangements to attend this monumental event.

As the weather changes, I hope you get outside to enjoy, explore and protect our beautiful open spaces here in DuPage and beyond.

Connie Schmidt, Chair

River Prairie Group

Sierra Club

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THIS IS AN INVITATION TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a United Nations summit on the climate crisis. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution.

With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history. We'll take to the streets to demand the world we know is within our reach: a world with an econ-

omy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities.

To change everything, we need everyone on board.

Sunday, September 21 in New York City. Join us.

Contact Connie Schmidt for information on transportation through the Sierra Club or for further details.

2014 VOTER GUIDE

State Candidates



Governor
Pat Quinn



Treasurer
Mike Frerichs

Mike Frerichs as a state senator has been a supporter of clean energy policies that have spurred more than 20,000 jobs in Illinois. He plans to extend his environmental commitment to the treasurer's office to advance goals such as energy efficiency, clean energy, and socially-responsible investing. In recognition of his longstanding commitment to the environment, he was named Outstanding Legislator of the Year by the Illinois Environmental Council.



Attorney General
Lisa Madigan

As the people's lawyer, Attorney General Lisa Madigan has been pursuing illegal polluters for almost a decade. Madigan and her team have cracked down on dirty coal plants, illegal coal mining practices, industrial water polluters, and others who don't obey our clean air and water laws. Aggressively pursuing polluters and ensuring that the state's air, land and water are protected for future generations are priorities that Attorney General Lisa Madigan will continue to pursue.



US Senate
Dick Durbin

Senator Durbin has fought to protect Lake Michigan from coal ash pollution and has been an outspoken advocate for EPA's ability to tackle climate change. Durbin has been a constant supporter of environmental issues and has not wavered with the changing political winds. His unwavering support makes him a great leader for the Illinois Congressional delegation, and he is enthusiastically endorsed for another term.



5th Congressional District

Mike Quigley

Congressman Quigley has been a champion on a spectrum of issues ranging from climate change to protecting our unique places. He has been a vocal opponent of the Keystone Pipeline proposal, which threatens drinking water supplies and will significantly contribute

to global warming emissions. He has also been a staunch supporter of allowing EPA to continue doing its job in developing science-based rules that protect our health from toxins like mercury and coal ash. Quigley supports the development of clean energy designed to rebuild domestic manufacturing, which will continue the growth in the green collar jobs sector.



11th Congressional District

Bill Foster

Bill Foster is the incumbent representative from the 11th Congressional District. Rep. Foster is a scientist, a business leader and an environmentalist. He cares deeply

about climate change, renewable energy, clean air and water, open space and sustainable farming practices. His scientific career was as a high-energy physicist and particle accelerator designer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. His priorities in Congress remain improving manufacturing and job creation, advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency.



8th Congressional District

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth is the incumbent representative from the 8th Congressional District. Congresswoman Duckworth is a strong supporter of renewable energy for the environmental benefits but also as a way to stimulate new jobs. As a decorated

veteran, she witnessed the life-saving benefits of transitioning the Department of Defense toward renewable fuel supplies, energy efficiency and battery storage. Rep. Duckworth opposes KeystoneXL, and supports climate change policies and protection for open space, clean air and clean water.



77th District Kathleen Willis

Kathleen Willis is seeking re-election as state representative of the 77th District. In her first term, Rep. Willis demonstrated significant leadership on clean energy issues by co-sponsoring several Sierra Club backed pieces of legislation.

Kathleen Willis is a true environmental champion who sees the win-win opportunities in protecting our environment while spurring job creation. "Cleaner energy is not only a way to increase the health of our community, but also I believe it is the pathway to a new frontier in economic development and job creation, with potential for new markets and increased productivity."



49th District Michael Fortner

Michael Fortner is seeking re-election as state representative from the 49th District. Rep. Fortner has cosponsored several bills supported by Sierra Club and has been a consistent vote against taxpayer subsidies for coal plants. His leadership was critical to the

inclusion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Smart Grid bill.



81st District Ron Sandack

Ron Sandack is seeking re-election as state representative from the 81st District. Rep. Sandack's voting record has been consistently aligned with Sierra Club's positions. He is supportive of sound clean energy policies, protecting funds allocated for renewable energy

projects, and implementing comprehensive fracking regulations. Always willing to consider reasonable solutions, Ron Sandack believes in "innovative solutions, both legislatively and beyond, [and] utilizing market-based ideas to expand good environmental stewardship." Sandack has demonstrated his commitment to environmental issues and is enthusiastically endorsed.



84th District Stephanie Kifowit

Stephanie Kifowit is seeking re-election as state representative from the 84th District. As alderman for the City of Aurora, Stephanie was a founder of the Aurora GreenFest and organized electronic and paper recycling drives within

the community. In Springfield, Rep. Kifowit has co-sponsored or supported several key environmental bills including fracking moratorium, fracking regulations, bill labeling that requires electricity suppliers to disclose energy source, and Lake Michigan off-shore wind development. Her focus will remain protection of open space, natural resources, clean air and clean water. Rep. Kifowit has keen understanding of the energy and environmental issues facing Illinois and will continue to work hard as one of Springfield's true environmental leaders.



Forest Preserve District of Du- Page County, President

Joe Cantore

Joe Cantore has demonstrated strength and resolve to stand up to political pressure and do what is right for the forest preserves. As a commissioner, he voted for projects that

restore biodiversity, create habitat for wildlife and provide people a great outdoor experience. He has been accessible to constituents and opposes giving up forest preserve land for private projects. Cantore has the leadership skills and experience to continue guiding the Forest Preserve Commission in the coming years.



6th District DuPage County Board

Laurie Nowak

Laurie Nowak is an incumbent county board member from DuPage County's 6th District. Her focus on environmental issues is not usually seen among elected officials in DuPage County. Laurie is also

a long-time Sierra Club volunteer and environmental champion. Elected to the county board in 2012, Laurie is vice chair of the Environmental Committee, board liaison for River Prairie Group's Cool Cities, and the only commissioner actively participating in DuPage's Green Government Council's sustainability plan. She has worked to expand recycling, promoted electronic recycling through PSAs, worked on the community garden program, advocated for green stormwater solutions, commercial composting and food recovery efforts, and encouraged efforts to make cities and towns bicycle friendly. Laurie Nowak is a talented incumbent with a bright future.



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, District 6

Shannon Burns

In her first term as commissioner, Shannon Burns has been a powerful and effective advocate for natural spaces, wetlands protection, fiscal respon-

sibility and increased transparency in government. She tirelessly promoted projects that increase species diversity and add to people's enjoyment of the forest preserves. Her efforts to engage and work effectively with stakeholders have settled long-standing problems, improved services and earned the respect of colleagues and constituents. For further transparency, Shannon proposed and passed resolutions that led to regular evening meetings, a working ethics committee and accurate recording of public comments. Her commitment to fiscal responsibility and to the forest preserves prompted her to donate 6% of her salary to help fund children's programs at Kline Creek Farm. She voted to reduce commissioner salaries and voted against duplicative and wasteful programs. Shannon Burns is a valuable addition to the DuPage County Forest Preserve District's Commission.



Sierra Club River Prairie Group Members Upcoming Election

The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee membership information will be posted in the upcoming October Chapter newsletter along with your voting ballot



Bob Barbieri

My name is Bob Barbieri, and I'm running for the River Prairie Group Ex-Com in 2015. I am currently a member of the RPG Ex-Com and have been serving the RPG as River Monitoring Program Technical Advisor for the past

several years, and been a water tester for the last 12 years. As a longtime member of the Sierra Club, I am dedicated to its grassroots structure that allows the average person to make a difference. Through active participation of its members, I believe the River Prairie Group can advance the goal of having a more environmentally conscious society.

If I am re-elected to the Executive Committee, I would bring the same dedication and enthusiasm to the Ex-Com as I have to the water testing program.



Stacey Salman

My name is Stacey Salman, and I am running for the River Prairie Group Ex-Com in 2015. I am currently a member of the RPG Ex-Com. I am a member of the lobby committee, the energy transition committee, and chair of the RPG political committee. I remember learning about issues like acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming at a young age. These early exposures shaped my views on the importance of environmental protection. I developed a belief that industrial activity and economic growth should not force unnecessary impacts on our natural spaces or our public health.

As a lifelong environmentalist, I have always found it important to contact elected officials in support of responsible environmental policies. While the actions of individuals are important, a single voice is rarely politically powerful. Sierra Club provides a valuable path for concerned citizens to use a collective voice and true grassroots efforts to influence the political process.

I value the work of the Sierra Club in the political arena, I appreciate the opportunity to directly impact environmental policy, and I am continually inspired by other members who are tirelessly dedicated to the goals of the Sierra Club. I look forward to continuing my role with Sierra Club and the RPG Ex-Com.



Connie Schmidt

My name is Connie Schmidt, and I am running for the River Prairie Group Ex-Com in 2015. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1990 and have been an activist for the past 18 years. Currently I am the chair of our group. I also serve as

co-chair for the DuPage County Liaison for local issues, and since initiating that role have watched the enthusiasm for local activism steadily increase in our territory. I have helped plan 12 major fundraisers for our group, lobbied local and state elected officials, and served on numerous endorsement committees. Vegetable gardening is a personal passion as I work to raise much of my family's food over the summer and autumn months. I enjoy kayaking on our local rivers and bicycle to work as much as possible.



Linda Sullivan

I am committed to the Sierra Club because of its grassroots structure that empowers ordinary people to make a difference. I believe the River Prairie Group should build on this strength, reaching out to its members, finding new ways to draw them into active participation

and improving channels for all members to make their voices heard.

As lobby chair for the RPG and Illinois Chapter of Sierra Club and as a member of the Chapter Political Committee, my focus is on making democracy work to promote a healthy environment. As citizen conservationists, we must find ways to raise the profile of environmental issues and hold legislators accountable.

If I am elected, I will bring enthusiasm and a positive attitude toward empowering all of us who care about open space and a healthy environment in Illinois.



DREAM BIG

LIKE SHANNON KOLLASCH, TEEN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

By Linda Sullivan

At 17 years old, Shannon Kollasch has a dazzling smile, a petite build, a shock of black hair and an energy that radiates joy and confidence.

One gets the impression that she could do just about anything with her life; but at an age when many teens are thinking about prom, this talented Neuqua Valley High School senior is already dedicating her life to environmental causes.

Shannon went with Sierra Club to Environmental Lobby Day in Springfield to work on Sierra Club's priority green bills last April and subsequently made

an in-district lobby visit to her state representative, Darlene Senger, with River Prairie Group Chair Connie Schmidt and me.

"Shannon was like a secret weapon talking to legislators," recalls Schmidt. "She was an eager participant offering to cover any bills. She completely disarmed every legislator she talked to, deftly answering their questions and completely charming them. They could not say no to her."

She has done more than participate in Sierra Club activities though. She started the Illinois Youth Environmental Network with three teens from Edwardsville whom she met as a result of Lobby Day. The group aims to connect all the high school environmental clubs in Illinois through a website where clubs can share ideas and projects, and where they can find tools and volunteer opportunities. IYEN already has incorporated as a non-profit, has written by-laws and has a domain name for its website, which as of this writing, is under construction.

"If all the environmental clubs in Illinois can connect and work together, it seems like we will have real impact," said Shannon.

Illinois Sierra Club Director Jack Darin agrees. "Young adults are powerful," he said. "If the Illinois Youth Network gets the environmental clubs working together, they can accomplish things that adults can't do by themselves."

I interviewed Shannon to find out how this Naperville native came to bring her considerable talents and enthusiasm to the cause of saving the environment. It did not take long to realize that this did not just magically happen. Shannon is an incredible self-starter, but she has been supported all along by adults who provided her with opportunities.

LS: Can you tell me, Shannon, how you first became interested in the environment?

Shannon: My dad always took us to parks when we were little and pointed out the species of birds and plants. My parents signed me up for nature camps at Morton Arboretum. It just seemed natural to want to preserve things for future generations. But what really inspired me was a summer class I took at the University of Chicago called "Getting to Green: Business for Sustainability." It was just so clear that we'd better find a way to do things sustainably or future generations will not have what we have.

LS: How did you happen to enroll in that class?

Shannon: My whole family was incredibly supportive. My parents helped me find the class, and I stayed with relatives in the city during it so I would be near the U of C.

LS: How did you connect with the Sierra Club?

Shannon: I found out about the DuPage Energy Summit through the Naperville Sustainability Meet-Up site. The Sierra Club had a booth there, and I met Connie Schmidt. She was so friendly, and she gave me her contact information. Then my high school ecology club sponsor knew about Lobby Day through her sister who is involved with Sierra Club. So I emailed Connie and asked her if I could go.

LS: I remember. Connie drove you down to Springfield, and you two shared a room, right?

Shannon: Connie was so wonderful. In her response to my email she sounded so excited. I was excited because she was excited. It was such a great experience.

LS: How did you connect with students from Edwardsville and start IYEN?

Shannon: I met a volunteer from Edwardsville at the orientation the night before Lobby Day. He gave me contact information for one of the girls, Rebecca, and she and I started emailing. Everything grew out of that.

Environmentalists wring their hands and wonder how to get young people "involved." Shannon is surely an exceptional young lady, but her involvement in the environment is not random good luck. Many young people care about the environment. Shannon is an example of what can happen if there are institutions and caring adults who support young people. Shannon's parents, Morton Arboretum, the class at the University of Chicago, her Environmental Club Sponsor Jaki Burns and RPG Chair Connie Schmidt are all a part of this. Burns says Shannon has "the enthusiasm to dream big." We all should be inspired to help a young person "dream big."

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAND UP FOR CONSERVATION

**By David Hanke, Science Teacher
Metea and Waubonsie Valley High Schools**

In today's world, we stand at a crucial point in conservation. It seems the world changes at a faster pace each and every day. In the big picture, many of us are very aware of the battle between natural space/resources and progress/development. We all do what we can in terms of conservation, both big and small, but how do we "keep the ball rolling"? As the world expands, it is increasingly important that we engage and encourage young people and future generations to become aware and stand up for conservation.

Some of my prior work experience was in the production of exhibitions at the Field Museum and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Here, I always saw myself as a behind-the-scenes educator. I enjoyed talking to the visitors as they loved to hear the stories and background of what went in to producing exhibits and shows. This experience helped me build a foun-

ation for my current vocation in education. I have taught science for the past four years and now work at both Metea and Waubonsie Valley High Schools teaching Biology and Chemistry/Physics classes. I know I am a teacher, tutor, coach and mentor to my students, but if I want to be an effective educator, I also need to be a salesman and an entertainer. If I can't sell my material to my students and if we can't have some fun learning along the way, then the class and learning become ineffective.

If you want to encourage the next generation, you have to be able to engage them. If you want to engage young people, you have to know how to communicate with them. How do you do this? Social media. This ever-changing technology is the best, easiest and fastest way to deliver information. Twitter and Instagram are things my kids, students, and players use every day. A great example of this is Reid Wiseman, who is currently living on the International Space Station for NASA. He has exploded on Twitter with more than 187,000 followers. Yes, he is in space, but his tweets are genuine, and they show his passion and excitement for what he does. Young people, especially, can sniff out whether or not someone is being genuine...and they notice every detail. Why should they "buy" what you're "selling" if it's not genuine?

Another approach to getting the next generation of conservationists to be engaged is purely kinesthetic. Young people are inquisitive by nature. This starts at a young age and, unlike technology, requires patience. Getting kids outside helps them become aware, and this can help nurture their creativity by getting their hands dirty. Having them be involved in any type of hands-on project will help give them a sense of accomplishment. It is this confidence that can lead from their backyard to involvement within their community, and now perhaps they can start to see the big picture of conservation. If you haven't already, visit <https://twitter.com/sierraclub>.



Sustainable Schoolyards: Sowing the Love for Our Natural World

By Andi Cooper, WRD Environmental

WATCH caterpillars mysteriously transform to a chrysalis then butterflies, FEEL the silkiness of a seed pod brush against your cheek, or SMELL the pungent aroma of dill crushed between your fingers. It is moments like these that powerfully shape one's views of the world. These rich experiences illustrate how manipulating the natural world touches our senses, creating lasting memories and connections to our environment.



Unfortunately, nature's allure is lost when our children spend countless hours mesmerized by screens – stuck indoors. A recent Nature Conservancy survey reports that only about 10 percent of today's youth spend time outdoors each day, and kids ages 8 to 18 spend a devastating 53 hours a week using entertainment media.

Why? Their reasons are a lack of access to natural areas, and general discomfort.

So what can we do to help create more acces-



sible spaces for youth to head outdoors, while outfitting them with ways to stay comfortable?

When you take a close look, local schools and communities have demonstrated how they can allure our children back outside - connecting them with nature. In Lombard, Illinois Hammerschmidt Elementary School, in partnership with the Lombard Park District, the Village of Lombard, the DuPage Community Foundation, DuPage FORWARD and DuPage County, is creating the WHS Learn+Play Gardens. This green schoolyard aims to inspire students and community members to go outdoors, connect to nature and get active – hence “leave no child inside.”

The WHS Learn+Play Gardens provides teachers with tools to extend curriculum beyond the school walls and into the landscape. The Edible Garden was built by students and adult volunteers in 2013. Since it was built, each spring over 400 students grow plants from seed, and use cold frames so vegetables like lettuce and radishes are ready to harvest by the end of the school year. Over the summer, Garden Club members take turns weekly tending the garden and enjoying its bounty. Additionally, landscape material is composted onsite, and reused within the garden, and wildlife has returned to the area that was just previously turfgrass.

Additional zones to the Learn+Play Gardens will be constructed over the next year. The Nature Based Playground will provide a safe unique spot where kids can manipulate their play world, be creative and connect with nature. Highlights include a teepee, outdoor musical instruments, stepping logs, and rock outcroppings, all nestled into a field of native plants. The Butterfly Garden will attract pollinators

and provide hands-on viewing about the life cycle. Various best management practices (BMPs) will aim to infiltrate water back into the ground – rather than sending it to the already full storm sewer.

Enhanced amenities like shade from trees and pergolas, bike racks, and various seating options will make the experience more comfortable for kids, teachers and caretakers alike. A new drinking fountain will feature a water bottle refill station, thus limiting waste and encouraging kids to stay hydrated.

As a landscape architect and a parent of three young boys, I am passionate about balancing kids' innate love of technology with conservation and the outdoors. I'm supported by my employer, WRD Environmental, whose mission is to help our clients like Hammerschmidt Elementary create sustainable, healthy environments. WRD is helping three Chicago high schools convert nearby vacant properties into outdoor science labs. It also helped Western Avenue Elementary School, in Geneva, Illinois, create an Edible Schoolyard.

Spending time outdoors at a young age is critical

to foster a healthy conservation ethic. We know that being outdoors contributes to a decrease in depression, and an increase in physical activity. Nature has the power to help us reduce obesity and diabetes while increasing general wellness. In fact – some doctors prescribe nature therapy (time outside) to their patients.

Aside from personal health benefits, exposing kids to nature is vital to get them to care about environmental issues. People with positive outdoor experiences during childhood are more likely to be interested about environmental issues as they grow into adults.

For these reasons the future well-being of our planet is dependent upon our 21st-century youth heading outdoors building this relationship now. Community leaders, designers, educators and advocates have the opportunity to create and steward places that build this relationship. The best places may just be school grounds – meet the kids where they spend a majority of their time and make it educational, comfortable and fun.



FALL PROGRAMS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The program committee has been busy planning interesting and informative programs for you this fall. We have healthy local food, wise political input, and extreme travel destinations on the menu. We hope you will join us. Some factors are still in the planning stages, so for up-to-the-minute details, consult the RPG website or our Facebook page.

Sunday-Monday, Sept 7-8 (tentative)

Sand Ridge State Forest Exploratory Backpack Southwest of Peoria

Sand Ridge State Forest is an island in a sea of agriculture. Just minutes southwest of Peoria, this 7,200-acre forest, the largest of Illinois' state forests, boasts sweeping expanses of native oak-hickory woodland, extensive pine plantations, sprawling open fields, grasslands and completely unique sand prairies. This is a moderate level and self-contained trip. Cost: \$20. Contact Leader Marlene Bertolozzi at (708) 267-4238 or marlenab@earthlink.net.

Thursday-Sunday, Sept 11-14

Porcupine Mountain Wilderness Fall Hike Michigan's Upper Peninsula

This involves 2-1/2 days of strenuous hiking with views unlike any other in the Midwest. Towering virgin timber (pines, cedar, hemlock, oak and maple), secluded lakes, waterfalls and miles of wild rivers and streams make a visit to the "Porkies" a trip to remember. We hike eight-nine miles on the first two days, and three on the last. There is some rocky terrain and a couple of stream crossings. Cost: \$130 includes three nights lodging at the Indianhead Motel, 823 East US 2 (Cloverland Drive), Ironwood, MI, (906) 932-2031, www.indianheadmotel.com; three continental breakfasts and Sierra Club costs. Full payment required in advance. Limit 14. Email Leader Paul Saindon at paul@pauls.us to sign-up. Please note: Logistics require that we drive about 90 minutes to get to our first hike on Friday, 45 minutes on Saturday and around 20 on Sunday.

Sunday, September 28

Hike the Scenic Canyons of Belle Smith Springs Shawnee National Forest, near Eddyville

Hike starts at 9:00 AM. This three-four-mile hike can be considered moderately strenuous (primarily the hike up and out). It is a perfect add-on to the Wilderness Weekend activities of Friday night camping and the Saturday hike at Panthers Den Wilderness. Water shoes are a good idea if we decide to hike to the natural bridge. Meeting place TBA. Optional picnic lunch in nearby scenic area. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Bring water and a lunch. Leader Ed Max will help with botanizing and pausing to ID the multitude of tree species present here, and Assistant Leader Joe Harris will lead for Shawnee Group. Registration is required by September 26th; email joeharris567098@gmail.com. For more information, contact Ed Max at (630) 209-3005 or hortusmax@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 18

Hike Kettle Moraine Nordic Trail County Road H, Elkhorn, WI

We will hike the nine-mile loop along wooded trail over rolling glacial topography, stopping for lunch along the way. The trail provides hiking through a variety of vegetation, hardwoods, pine plantations, open meadows and kettle moraine terrain. Level is moderate. Meet at 9:15 AM at the Nordic Trail parking lot on Highway H, approximately one mile north of the intersection of H and US Highway 12 in Lagrange, WI. We should be back to the lot by 3:30 PM. Cost: \$3. Limit 14. To sign up, email Leader Paul

Saindon at paul@pauls.us. Note: Nonresidents pay a \$10 parking fee; carpooling is encouraged. A map is located on the website.

Saturday, October 25 Adopt a Trail Work Day Illinois Prairie Path, Glen Ellyn

This is an easy two-mile walk on the Illinois Prairie Path to Hill Avenue and back. It may be canceled if weather is severe.

The starting location is at the east end of the parking lot near 485 N. Montclair St, Glen Ellyn, where it dead ends into the Prairie Path just south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. FYI: This will be a Sierra Club clean-up, but we will be following county requirements. This will allow us to have an Adopt-a-Trail sign on the trail with the Sierra Club name on it, which will satisfy one of the RPG's goals for this year. Note: This outing is under the auspices and rules of DuPage County, and participants will be required to sign a county waiver. People should contact Leader Jeff Gahris if interested, due to possible late developments, at jgahris@wideopenwest.com or (630) 469-2056.

Note: All local group outings are offered at cost. Longer and more expensive outings require deposits (ask leader about refund policy). Contact the leader or assistant indicated for more information and outing requirements. All outings have limits on group size, so early signup is suggested.

Including updates on those below, new RPG listings, and offerings from other local groups, current listings are online at illinois.sierraclub.org/outings. For our Activity Calendar, which includes meetings and events and offers map and direction links, go to: illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/calendar/.

September 8, 7:00 PM Prairie Food Co-op

Enjoy a presentation from Stephanie Eby and the folks of the Prairie Food Co-op on their mission and vision. According to their website, Prairie Food Co-op is a grocery store that supports local farms and keeps money in our community; focuses on fresh, healthy, wholesome food; serves as an educational resource for healthy living; and is owned by YOU and gives you a vote in its decisions. Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane St. Contact: Moira Noll – moiradowell@aol.com

October 16, 7:30 PM Meet the Candidates

Meet and discuss issues with the endorsed DuPage candidates for the November mid-term elections. Shannon Burns for District 6 Forest Preserve Commissioner; Joe Cantore for President of the Forest Preserve District; and Lauren Nowak for District 6 County Board Member have all been invited to share their platforms with you. This is one of the most important features of the Sierra Club. By supporting our endorsed candidates we ensure a voice for the environment in the offices that set the environmental protection regulations. Learn how you can help with their elections. Warrenville Public Library, 28W751 Stafford Place. Contact: Connie Schmidt, twnstr111@msn.com

November (Date & Time TBA) Travelogue with John Huston of Glen Ellyn

Featured will be his trips to the North Pole and Ellesmere Island. This is a very exciting program from a wild adventurer who grew up right here in Glen Ellyn. Come hear his programs as our temperatures dip and we consider the extreme cold he has experienced. This program takes place in cooperation with the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Watch our website and Facebook for further details. Contact: Moira Noll – moiradowell@aol.com



Mail-in Membership Form for Sierra Club Membership

**Join or Renew with the Sierra Club today and receive a free backpack!
Print this page, then fill out the information below.**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

J03WOT0007

Please select a membership level:

Individual Membership

- ___ Introductory \$25
- ___ Regular \$39
- ___ Supporting \$75
- ___ Life \$1000
- ___ Student \$25
- ___ Senior \$25
- ___ Limited Income \$25
- ___ Contributing \$150

Joint Membership

- ___ Regular \$49
- ___ Supporting \$100
- ___ Life \$1250
- ___ Student \$35
- ___ Senior \$35
- ___ Limited Income \$35
- ___ Contributing \$175

Please select a payment method: AMEX: ___ MasterCard: ___ Visa: ___

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date (mm/yy): _____ Signature _____

I'd like to make a special, additional gift, over and above my membership dues, to help in the following area(s):

- Sierra Club** \$ _____ (lobbying and legislation)
 The Sierra Club Foundation \$ _____ (research and public conservation)
 Environmental Law Program \$ _____ (environmental litigation)

___ Please do not send me the free rucksack. I prefer that all of my contribution goes towards protecting America's environment.

From time to time, we make our mailing list available to other worthy organizations. If you prefer that your name not be included, please check here: ___

**Mail this form to: Sierra Club Member Services
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441**

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Contributions to The Sierra Club Foundation and Environmental Law Program are tax-deductible. Your dues include \$7.50 for your subscription to Sierra Magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

GREEN READING

The Green Reading book discussions will continue at the Lombard Public Library and are expanding to the Warrenville Public Library as well! In January, February and March, the group will meet at the Lombard Library on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM and in Warrenville on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. To give you a heads up on our books (which may make marvelous holiday gifts) they are listed below for you:

January

***The Green Boat* by Mary Pipher**

February

***Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat**

March

***Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray**

Here is a little tease on our first book to get you motivated! The others will be covered in our next newsletter.

***The Green Boat* by Mary Pipher**

If you struggle with hopelessness about your personal ability to turn the tide of earth's impending environmental crisis, this is a book of hope. Noting humanity's common desire for love and usefulness, and drawing on our shared history of communal resiliency, the author uses humor and personal stories to gently nudge the reader down the path of action through self-awareness. This is a good read that will leave you thoughtfully preparing for action. Discussion to be led by Shannon Burns; contact Connie Schmidt for more information.

Would You Like to Help Restore a Local Woodland?

There are very few remnants left of the old prairie lands—less than 2 percent of the land in Illinois. Fortunately, several isolated spots within our county have been purchased or donated to preserve them. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has several restorations going on. One of these is at the Glacial Woods area of Churchill Woods Forest Preserve between the Illinois Prairie Path and the Union Pacific tracks in Glen Ellyn. This secluded area is north of the Illinois Prairie Path that has an ongoing restoration program of its own.

We are looking for volunteers to remove invasive plants, and collect and plant native seed. You will also learn a lot about the approximate 300 species of plants that grow on the highest Glacial Kame in DuPage County.

Please wear clothes suited for working outdoors. Please bring work gloves and water.

If you are under 18, we will need your parents to sign a permission form. If you are under 14, you will need an adult to work with you.

Work Days and Times

September 21 (9:00 AM–12:00 PM)

October 12 (9:00 AM–12:00 PM)

November 9 (9:00 AM–12:00 PM)

We will meet at Walnut Glen Park, corner of Walnut St. and Longfellow St., Glen Ellyn.

For more information:

Steward: Bruce Blake

(630)629-2520. Rllnstns1@aol.com cell: (630) 220-3625

Volunteer waiver required.

http://www.dupageforest.com/GetInvolved/Volunteer/Natural_Resource_Management.html