



## Chatter From the Chair

Happy NEW Year! I hope that our “new year” of spring growth is just around the corner. (See Ed Max’s fabulous article about what to watch for!) Growth is my theme for you, as your chairperson of the River Prairie Group at this time. This is my last of four consecutive terms as chair, and as they say, “I will be going out with President Obama” this year. Our Executive Committee has had its first meeting of 2016, and we are dedicated to a year of growth as we focus on activities and events to help our membership “enjoy, explore, and protect” the planet.

The Outings committee of the River Prairie Group is the most active in the state of Illinois and brings you events in our county, our state, and neighboring states, as well. Recently, an easy web site has been established for you to access our calendar of trips at

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### DuPage Sierran

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For activities, legislative action alerts, and outings information:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie>

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

sctrips.org. Look for listings in this newsletter as well as an article that gives you an update on the energetic team ready to get you into your boots and out in the wilds of our area. Please bring a friend or two to an outing; by introducing them to our organization, you will be helping to grow the River Prairie Group and to broaden appreciation of the environment by others.

The statewide Clean Power Team has a strong base here in DuPage. Their goals are to help the Clean Jobs Bill pass in Springfield and to gather support for the national Clean Power Plan and solid regulations from the IEPA. The RPG March meeting will be both an informational slide show and also a

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## “Chatter from the Chair”


(Continued from page 1)

workshop on postcard and letter writing to speak loud and clear to our state elected officials about these goals. Growing this support depends in part on you inviting a friend or two to join us for this important meeting. In addition, this newsletter shares information on Lobby Day in April, and we are hoping to raise a BIG crowd to show support for the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Jobs Bill here, too.

The DuPage Monarch Project (DMP) is an important initiative taking root in local municipalities as well as the DuPage County Forest Preserve District.

We are asking them to pass a resolution to promote healthy habitat, friendly to the Monarch survival. The project is co-sponsored by the River Prairie Group, Wild Ones, The Conservation Foundation, and The Forest Preserve District of DuPage. Look for information on this project and the February 23 program featuring Andre Copeland of the Brookfield Zoo to discuss Monarchs!

If we “Each one Reach one” the RPG will be able to grow these programs and more. Consider bringing a friend: introduce them to the RPG this spring.



## The River Prairie Group could not function without the volunteers who step up to the various jobs and positions.

### **Officers:**

Connie Schmidt – Chair  
Jeff Gahrns – Vice Chair  
Kathy Franke – Secretary  
Bruce Blake – Treasurer

### **Additional Members of the Ex-Com at Large:**

Linda Sullivan – Lobby Chair  
Bob Barbieri – Water Research Project  
Jeff Gahrns – Solar Energy Liaison  
Stacey Salmon – Political Endorsements  
Tom Richardson – DuPage County Issues

### **Additional Committee Chairs:**

Maira Noll – Programs  
Bonnie Blake – Water Monitoring  
Paul Saindon – Outings  
Andrew Cohen – Webmaster  
Joe Pokorny – National Liaison  
Sherry Stratton – Newsletter Editor  
Dave Blake – Newsletter Layout

**Want to learn how Illinois can create 32,000 new clean energy jobs, reduce electric bills, improve public health, and protect our climate?**

Please join  
The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club  
For a presentation + discussion on

## **The Illinois Clean Jobs Campaign**

**March 23, 7:00 pm**  
**Glen Ellyn Public Library**  
**535 Duane Street**



This year, Illinois has a unique opportunity to become a regional leader in clean energy by passing the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill. Come learn more about this important piece of legislation, and how we can make sure our elected leaders take action.

Questions? Contact Connie Schmidt: [twenstr111@msn.com](mailto:twenstr111@msn.com)

# National Sierra Club Elections are Underway – VOTE!

## A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site. Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process.

### How can I learn about the candidates?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Then make your choice and cast your vote! Voting Online is Quick and Easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than Election Day, April 27, 2016.

## The Illinois Environmental Council is Hosting Two Lobby Days This Year!

On April 7, we'll hold a smaller lobby day of less than 100 people who would like to have more in depth conversations with their legislators on a variety of energy, conservation and budget issues. There will be a reception and training on April 6 that will be mandatory to attend this lobby day. Register here for more information and we'll connect you with hotel rooms and travel information. A limited number of scholarships are available for students and young professionals for this event.

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, we'll be holding an Earth Day of Action and Climate Rally outside (or inside, depending on the weather) the Capitol Building in Springfield. This is a critical day for

the environmental community's agenda in Springfield, and this year is particularly important because of the clean energy and climate change issues being considered by state legislators. We hope to have hundreds of supporters out to support clean energy and are working to develop a list of buses and other transportation options to make it easier to attend.

Please register as early as possible so we can make determinations about bus departure locations. Register for Lobby Day here and we will send you further information as soon as possible.

### REGISTER HERE!

Register with [Caroline.wooten@sierraclub.org](mailto:Caroline.wooten@sierraclub.org)  
Or call Connie Schmidt 630 393 6276



**NON-PROFIT  
'SUSTAIN DUPAGE'  
ORGANIZES FIRST ANNUAL**



**DUPAGE COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMISSION & COMMITTEE  
SYMPOSIUM**

An historic event that will strengthen the Environmental Commissions & Committees (COMMs) of DuPage for the next century.

On March 12th, 2016 at 10:00AM (Central), Sustain DuPage will be hosting the first ever DCECC Symposium. The Symposium will be broadcast live on Youtube for an international audience.

Now through early February, Environmental COMMs are being personally invited by Sustain DuPage Founder Andrew Van Gorp to send two representatives to the Symposium (one to give a presentation and the other to attend in the audience). COMM members will also be asked to fill out and return a survey instrument prepared by Sustain DuPage.

On the day of the Symposium, all 16 Environmental COMMs will present a five minute presentation answering these three prompts:

- What are the successes of your COMM?
- What are the challenges of your COMM?
- Five years from now, what do you hope to have accomplished?

The results of the aforementioned survey instrument will be interpreted at the conclusion of the Symposium. The broadcast should sum no greater than 80-100 minutes.

Sustain DuPage is working with Universities and Colleges throughout Northern Illinois and the Midwest to plan viewing parties that might serve as case-studies for students heading into the Environmental field.

Northland College in Ashland, WI has confirmed they will host a viewing party as well as the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL. After the viewing, Northland College Sustainable Community Development undergrad Kaydee Johnson will lead a discussion reflecting on ways the Symposium might improve for 2017. Natasha Gonzalez, President of the College of DuPage Environmental Club, will host a discussion about ways the public can become more engaged

in DuPage sustainability efforts.

After the Symposium, COMM members will be able to attend a reception with local food and Fairtrade coffee, (a portion which will not be broadcast).

The live link to the Youtube broadcast will be posted on [www.SustainDuPage.com](http://www.SustainDuPage.com) and on Sustain DuPage's Facebook and Twitter accounts two weeks prior to the event.

The mission of this event is to inspire Environmental COMM members to come together in community to strive for excellence.

#### **Ideal outcomes would include:**

- Collaborative investments in sustainability infrastructure that ensure maximum fiduciary responsibility;
- Greater cohesion and continuity for DuPage sustainability policy and enforcement;
- An interchange between neighbor-municipalities leading to enhanced community enrichment, camaraderie, and quality of life;
- Fostering a synergistic impetus to move quickly to transition our County away from fossil fuels in an effort to secure the safety of our communities;
- Inspiring all remaining DuPage municipalities without an Environmental COMM to create one;
- Laying the groundwork for the founding of the DuPage County Environmental Commission & Committee Coalition with biannual meetings of all DuPage COMM members, [similar to the structure of the Consortium of North Shore Environmental Groups (CONSEG) in Chicago].

#### **For more information Contact:**

Andrew Van Gorp, Sustain DuPage Founder  
630.880.7709 | [tosustaindupage@gmail.com](mailto:tosustaindupage@gmail.com)



# DuPage County Forest Preserve Update

By Ryan Smith, Senior Ranger  
Forest Preserve District DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County thus far has experienced a mild winter with no notable snow to speak of, but that does not mean that we will not have any seasonable weather as we approach the tail end of winter. Winter opportunities to take advantage of can include cross country skiing and snow tubing. Winter is also a great time for birding enthusiasts. As a reminder, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County asks visitors to play it safe while enjoying these fun activities.

Speaking of birds, the district is pleased to announce that Hawkwatch, a research and monitoring program that counts migrating falcons, hawks and other raptors, reported that falcons broke the fall migration record this past season. Peregrine falcons were observed over Greene Valley Forest Preserve, a record of 60 was set and tallied. The count was part of an annual tally by the research and monitoring program which shared the data with the Hawk Migration Association of North America, which uses the numbers to study trends. Additionally, this winter has allowed for good viewing opportunities of our local "snowbirds". The season's leafless trees and monochrome landscapes make it easy to catch them on the wing, perching in trees or foraging on forest floors. Whether you're an avid birder or a newbie, DuPage forest preserves offer some of the area's best birding opportunities.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is working on plans to add a 23-car parking lot, 1.2 miles of limestone trails, an interpretive overlook and a 2-acre picnic area at Dunham Forest Preserve in Wayne. The trail in particular will offer great wildlife-watching opportunities in the future because it will carry hikers, bikers, horseback riders and cross-country skiers through the forest preserve's proposed wetlands and prairie, which provide habitat for upland birds and migratory waterfowl. Construction should begin in late 2016 or early 2017.

The Forest Preserve District is also working with several partners to continue to create 212 acres of prai-



ries and wetlands at Dunham, including 135 acres of prairie funded and maintained by Wayne Area Conservancy, 11 acres of wetlands mitigated by Canadian National, and 27 acres of wetlands funded by DuPage County Stormwater Management. The Forest Preserve District continues to seed Dunham with prairie species in these and other areas of the preserve.

To create the new wetlands, the District will rehydrate the soil, in part by disabling drain tiles buried in former agricultural fields. But first, contractors will use large forestry equipment, saws and chippers to remove weedy and nonnative trees and shrubs along Norton Creek and drainage ditches. The District will then be able to seed the area with native wetland plants. Most of this phase will take place this winter, and for visitors' safety the District will need to temporarily close parts of the preserve.

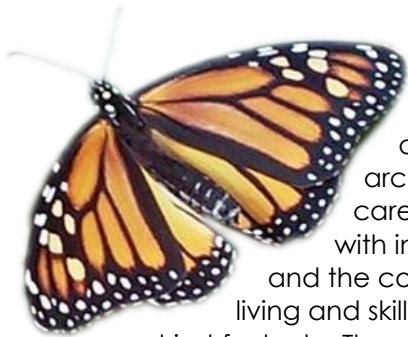
Wetlands offer several benefits. They help with flood control (1 acre can hold up to 1.5 million gallons of stormwater) and trap pollutants carried in that water before they reach underground reservoirs. They also provide irreplaceable habitat for

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# Butterflies Land and Thrive In Monarch Landing Prairie Garden

**900-square-foot garden with 21 species of plants grows at Monarch Landing**

By Wendy Foster  
(Reprinted with Permission)



A 900-square-foot garden with 21 species of plants grows at Monarch Landing, a continuing care retirement community, with independent senior living and the connecting Springs assisted living and skilled nursing unit. But it's not just for looks. The new garden is a chance for survival for the endangered monarch butterfly and other insects, such as the all-important honeybee. Called a "way station," the garden contains 638 prairie plants, including plenty of milkweed and more plants that attract a variety of insects and even birds. "It's a mixed neighborhood," quipped Monarch Landing resident and certified master gardener Bill Lannin.

"The monarch will only lay its eggs on milkweed," said fellow resident Kay Filkins, a lifelong garden enthusiast and member of the Green Earth Society, a group of Monarch Landing residents interested in nature and preserving the environment. Referring to the way station as a "rest stop" for monarchs to lay their eggs before they're on their way, Kay said that the butterfly garden she, Lannin, and others will plant in the spring will be the "tavern" where butterflies and other insects can imbibe nectar.

Because the broad use of pesticides and over-cultivation of land is destroying vital insects and the plants they need, said Kay, she and her friends in the Green Earth Society felt compelled to do something about the "dire straits" of imperiled wildlife. While the group planted a smaller prairie garden in 2009, the construction of The Springs made it difficult to maintain. When construction was completed this year,

Monarch Landing gave the green light to re-build the garden with a lot more ground than the original plot.

Situated between Monarch Landing and The Springs, the butterfly way station is accessible to all residents and will become increasingly lush as the plants rotate through the seasons, boasting their various colors and textures. Along with resident Jan Park and other volunteers eager to dig into Mother Earth, Lannin completed the project in three weeks.

A native of Illinois, Bill grew up next to a prairie and knows well the importance of preserving natural habitats for indigenous wildlife. While living in Hoffman Estates, he removed the grass on his steeply sloped backyard and replaced it with prairie plants. He is also a member of Naperville's Wild Ones, a nonprofit organization committed to preserving, restoring, and establishing native plant communities.







"Bill is a dynamo," said Kay. "I am so delighted and grateful to have his help!"

The garden is already a point of great interest among Monarch Landing residents and staff. "Five or six volunteers are the core group who plant and care for the garden, but lots of people are interested in what's going on. Many people stop by to thank us for what we're doing," said Kay, who has lived at Monarch Landing with her husband since it opened in 2006. "We thank Monarch Landing for supporting us and allowing us this lovely space. There is such encouragement from our staff to do the projects that interest us and such a wide variety of activities here. I don't know of anything else like it!"

Monarch Landing is a continuing care retirement community located on a scenic campus in Naperville, Illinois, named "one of America's best places to live and retire" by Modern Maturity, and "the best city for early retirement" by Kiplinger. Monarch Landing currently offers independent living, promoting a vibrant life style for active seniors. The Springs at Monarch Landing offers assisted living memory support and will soon offer rehabilitation and skilled nursing services, thus providing complete continuing care for seniors. Monarch Landing is owned by Senior Care Development and managed by Life Care Services.

For additional information visit: [WelcomeToMonarchLanding.com](http://WelcomeToMonarchLanding.com) or call 630-548-0400.

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## Forest Preserve Update

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hundreds of species of native plants and animals.

With spring approaching, excitement for re-growth and new life fills our wonderment for the outdoors. A reminder is that unlike humans, young wild animals are not constantly supervised by their parents. They spend much of their time alone or with siblings. Because of this fact, people should leave young wildlife alone whenever possible. Willowbrook Wildlife Center receives hundreds of young birds and mammals each year, and although it can often successfully raise them, animals generally fare better if their parents do the job.

If you've found a young wild animal on its own, first determine that it is truly an orphan by checking for signs of ill health. If the animal does not appear sick or injured, give the mother time to return. If it does appear sick, call Willowbrook Wildlife Center at (630) 942-6200.





# New Illinois Outings Chair

Meet Paul Saindon, Illinois Sierra Club's new Outings Chair. Saindon was tapped for this important position after he presented the Illinois Chapter with several ideas for how technology could be used to expand Outings and draw young people to Sierra Club.

Saindon believes strongly that Outings support John Muir's idea that getting people out of doors is the first step in protecting our natural heritage, an idea enshrined in Sierra Club's motto, "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet."

A River Prairie Group backpacking trip to Kettle Moraine State Park, Wisconsin, in 2000 first attracted Saindon to Sierra Club. He became an RPG trip leader in 2005 and became involved with National Outings in 2009 when he assisted Tom Borchard on a Shawnee National Forest service trip and later stepped in as leader on two 2012 trips when Borchard broke his leg. Saindon has led National Sierra Club trips, mostly backpacking and service trips, every year since. He took over as RPG Outings Chair in 2013.

Saindon has always been motivated to "give back." He joined the Army in 1973 and became an MP sergeant. He has worked on numerous political campaigns for Sierra Club endorsed candidates, including traveling to Indiana to work on the 2008 Obama campaign. He has an IT degree, a skill that he plans to make use of as Chapter Outings Chair.

The Sierra Club is so happy that he is bringing his passion, enthusiasm, and abilities to making Illinois Sierra Club Outings program as strong as it can be.



# River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings

## EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET BY DISCOVERING YOUR LOCAL OUTDOORS.

Sierra Club Local Outdoors volunteers lead a range of outings that are as diverse as their interests. Depending on where you are, you can choose from day hikes, bicycling, skiing, paddling, bird-watching, conservation-oriented activities, or forays into the remaining natural areas of our major cities.

[www.sctrips.org](http://www.sctrips.org)

### Day hike at Morton Arboretum Wednesday, March 9–10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

Join a Morton Arboretum certified Naturalist as we walk the wooded areas of Morton Arboretum. This weekday hike will begin late morning and weather dependent may go until early afternoon. Ed is also an arborist, so we'll be hiking and admiring the large collections of species within this world class institution. If you've ever wanted to know trees, this is the hike for you. We will also do some birding and hike along roads and trails. Reduced admission fees on Wednesdays in March (9.00 pp, 8.00 for seniors), better yet if a member. Look for a wildflower hike here later in season.

What to bring: Hiking boots, appropriate colder weather wear, and binoculars, plus water. Cash for the entrance plus a 3.00 Sierra Club fee and \$ for a light lunch.

Contact: Edward R Max, 630-209-3005  
[hortusmax@gmail.com](mailto:hortusmax@gmail.com)

### Get the Facts on the Clean Power and Clean Jobs Bill in Illinois Wednesday, March 23 – 7PM Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn, IL

Want to learn how Illinois can create 32,000 new clean energy jobs, reduce electric bills, improve public health, and protect our climate?

Please join The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club for a presentation and discussion on the Illinois Clean Jobs Campaign. This year, Illinois has a unique opportunity to become a regional leader in clean energy by passing the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill. Come learn more about this important piece of legislation, and how we can make sure our elected leaders take action.

Contact: Connie Schmidt, [twenstr111@msn.com](mailto:twenstr111@msn.com)

### Geological Interpretive Hike Saturday, April 9 – 9:15 AM to 3:00 PM 5401-5411 Keystone Rd, Richmond, IL 60071

Step back in time and learn a bit of the geological history and features of NE Illinois on a slow paced geological interpretive hike at Glacial Park near Ringwood, IL. You will be guided by a retired geologist as we see and discuss the many glacial features in this scenic park. Budding earth scientists welcome along with any one interested in learning and fresh air. Although the pace is not fast we cover around 5 miles with some hilly terrain. Contact Mike to reserve a spot.

Contact: Michael Davis, 815-331-3042  
[mikeyd5600@comcast.net](mailto:mikeyd5600@comcast.net)

### Spring Wildflower Hike at Starved Rock Saturday, April 16 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Starved Rock, Deer Park Township, IL 61348

Join us for a moderately paced hike through this special place of canyons, waterfalls, and natural beauty. Focusing on a nice hike and wildflowers of many niches: Trillium (several species), Mayapples, Hepaticas, Bloodroot etc. that all thrive here, plus many more. Many species of unusual shrubs such as Witch-hazels and Spicebush reside here as well as many species of trees.

We will stop mid-stream for lunch, so bring some grub, water, plus good boots, (preferably waterproof for stream crossings) and a hiking stick (if you need it), and dress in layers. Dry socks and a change of shoes (for afterward) are recommended. We will also pick up trash along the trails to help out a damaged park under pressure (increasingly noticeable) from lack of maintenance due in part to budget cuts.

\$3.00 pp to be paid day of hike. Heavy weather or steady rains cancels trip. Limit of 22 for this event.



We can plan a trip to Utica for grub and a few beers afterward.

Contact: Ed Max, 630-209-3005 or hortusmax@gmail.com

**Backpack Forest Glen  
Friday, April 22, 2016 to Sunday, April 24,**

Backpack central Illinois along the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River. This county park is an unexpected treat with 11 miles of backpacking trails and several lateral trails to pique your interest. We'll hike ravines, grassy meadows and tall grass prairies. This is also a good warm-up trip for your summer backpacking and hiking trips. Cost: \$30.

Contact: Joe Pratola at (773) 344-5287 after 5 PM or jpratola@yahoo.com

**Glen Ellyn Earth Day Event  
Friday, April 22 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Maryknoll Park, 845 Pershing Ave,  
Glen Ellyn, IL**

Visit the River Prairie Group Table and sign Clean Energy Cards to Springfield.

Maryknoll Park is just south of Roosevelt Road (Route 38) and east of Route 53 on Pershing Avenue.

Contact: Connie S Schmidt, 630-393-6276 or twnstr111@msn.com

**Spring Wildflower Hike:  
LaPorte County Indiana  
Saturday, April 23 – 10:00 AM  
Cap Savers Holding, Palos Hill, IL**

Join us to view the spring wildflowers in nearby LaPorte County Indiana. We will visit 2 county parks. Red Mill County Park is a 160-acre gem with 3 miles of trail winding through the woods & around the wetlands of the headwaters of the Little Calumet River. Bendix Woods County Park is the former testing grounds of the Studebaker automobile with 3 miles of trail. When I first visited this park, I found a carpet of white blossoms (trillium, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauties, anemone) that made my jaw drop!!! Limit 12.

To sign up contact the Leader Mark Ginger at bubbleman@outlook.com.

**Mississippi Palisades Spring Flower Hike/Bike  
Saturday, April 30 to Sunday, May 1  
Savanna, Illinois**

Hike on former Indian trails in the Mississippi Palisades State Park. Be amazed by the profusion of spring wild flowers throughout the south side of the

park. Study and identify the spring wildflowers covering the slopes. Hike along ancient Indian trails overlooking the Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. Spend one day either hiking or biking a section of the Illinois Great River Trail starting in Savanna. Camp or stay at a local inn. Limit 20. Cost is \$40 (\$5 discount for Sierra Club members). \$25 deposit is due April 1.

Contact: Marlene Bertolozzi, 708-267-4238 or marlenab@earthlink.net

**Adopt a Trail Work Day - Illinois Prairie Path  
Saturday, April 30 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
485 North Montclair Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL**

For the initial 2016 trail cleanup event we are "piggy-backing" on the annual Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) event.

This is an easy 2-mile walk on the Illinois Prairie Path to Hill Avenue (+?) and back. It may be canceled if weather is severe, but the IPP-organized event is officially rain or shine.

The starting location for us 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.

FYI - subsequent 2016 dates (6/25, 8/27, 10/22) will be Sierra Club clean-ups, but we will be following County requirements. This allows us to have an Adopt-a-Trail sign on the trail with the Sierra Club name on it.

Contact: Jeffrey L Gahrns, 630-469-2056 or jgahrns@wideopenwest.com

**Spring Wildflower Hike:  
Berrien County Michigan  
Sunday, May 1 – 10:00 AM**

Join us to view the spring wildflowers in Berrien County Michigan. We will visit 2 parks. Love Creek County Park is a 150-acre natural area that is known for its spectacular display of spring wildflowers. Warren Woods Natural Area is known for being the last stand of virgin first-growth forest in the Midwest. It offers quite a display of spring wildflowers. Limit 12.

Contact: Mark Ginger, bubbleman@outlook.com

**Discover Northwestern Illinois  
Saturday, May 7 – 9:00 AM  
Pecatonica River Forestry Preserve,  
7260 Judd Rd, Pecatonica, IL 61063**

Hike through the rolling woods and fields along the Pecatonica River. There is an education center and I hope to have a ranger available to tell us



something about the area and the significance of the preserve. This can be either a one-day hike of up to 10 miles or a two-day hike when combined with the Seward Bluffs hike on Sunday, May 8. There is camping available at Seward Bluffs for those who want to base camp. There is a B&B in the area as well as a couple of motels.

Contact: Marlene Bertolozzi, 708-267-4238, or marlenab@earthlink.net

**Discover Seward's Bluff area  
Sunday, May 8 – 9:00 AM (Time Tentative)  
Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve,  
16999 Comly Rd, Seward, IL 61077**

This is a companion hike to Saturday's exploration of the nearby Pecatonica River F.P. on May 7. We will meander through the preserve, checking out the bluffs and Grove Creek. For those interested, camping is available (see write-up for May 7 hike). This is an area where we did a country road bike ride a few years back. Let me know if you are interested in biking these hilly roads. The trail is approximately 8.5 miles. We will get an early start so that we can be on our way home by mid-afternoon.

Contact: Marlene Bertolozzi, 708-267-4238 or marlenab@earthlink.net

**Black Partridge Forest Preserve Flower Hike  
Saturday, May 14 – 9:00 AM  
Lemont, IL**

Black Partridge Forest Preserve in Lemont Township is famous for its wildflower displays, especially bluebells. Come enjoy the wildflowers while hiking through the preserve. It's always interesting to see how many different flowers bloom across the region at this time of year.

Contact: Marlene Bertolozzi, 708-267-4238 or marlenab@earthlink.net

**Restoration Day  
Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve  
Saturday, May 14 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County  
Walnut Glen Park, 860 Walnut St.  
Glen Ellyn, IL**

Registration with DuPage Forest Preserve Volunteer Office is required at least five days in advance. A signed waiver and proper dress are also required. See details below.

Join fellow Sierra Club members for a fun day at Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve. We'll begin with site steward Bruce Blake providing a brief history of this

unique Glen Ellyn preserve nestled between the Illinois Prairie Path and Union Pacific railroad tracks and a review of the management techniques being used to preserve the plant community. We will be removing invasive plants such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

**Waiver Requirements:** All first-time volunteers must complete and submit a workday waiver to the Site Steward in order to participate in workday activities. Volunteers that are younger than 18, must have the waiver signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s). The waiver can be downloaded from the District's website at: [http://www.dupageforest.com/Volunteer/Additional\\_Options.aspx](http://www.dupageforest.com/Volunteer/Additional_Options.aspx) The waiver can be found on the right sidebar.

**How to Dress:** Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and bring your own work gloves, if possible. Dress in layers. Shorts are not recommended, as you will be working amidst thorny brush and, occasionally, poisonous plants. Flip-flops, sandals and open-toe shoes are forbidden.

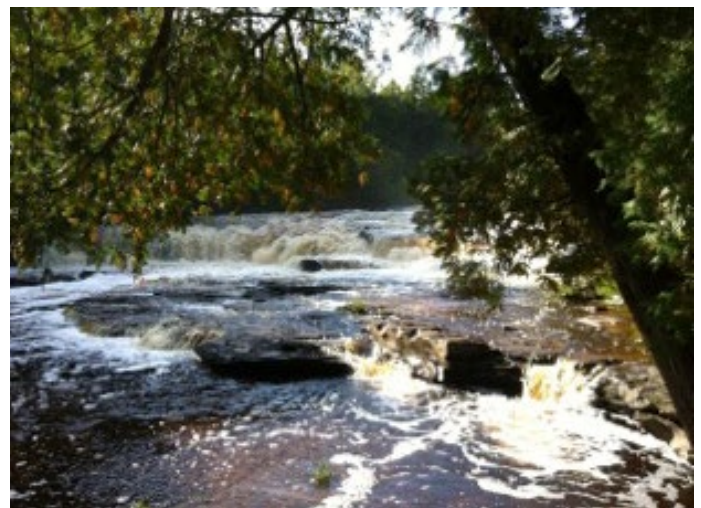
**Note:** This outing is under the auspices and rules of the FPDDC.

Contact: Steward Bruce Blake at 630-629-2520 or Rllnstns1@aol.com.

**Danada/Herrick Edible Plant Hike  
Sunday, May 29 – 9:30 AM (Time Tentative)  
Warrenville, IL**

Join me as we hike the trail and look for some edible plants. We will also identify other plants, birds, animals, and trees as we hike this area which is so close to most of our homes. At Danada, we will also see the horses and learn about Danada Equestrian Center of DuPage County. Limit 20, Cost \$3 pp.

Contact: Jan Bradford, 847-477-5518





## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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
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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: \_\_\_

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