



DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

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Chatter from the Chair

By **Connie Schmidt**
Chair, River Prairie Group
Sierra Club

One thing I believe in is the power of Open Space to regenerate my spirit. Belonging to Sierra Club has made a huge change in my life. I have met fascinating people with like-minded views and many who have opened my mind in ways I hadn't imagined. I have contributed to local projects to improve the quality of aquatic, prairie and forest habitats. Fascinating programs have enlightened me with a variety of speakers, and our outings and events in DuPage County are among the best in the state.

Why did you join the Sierra Club? What has it done for you? What are the essential elements that encourage you to contribute each year? We are very interested in growing our numbers and, in particular, active members who get the most from their membership.

Years ago (1992) I was riding my horse along the beautiful Illinois Prairie Path in Warrenville. As I approached Route 59, I noticed plastic ribbons adorning many of the trees on both sides of the path. When I got back home, I called my local alderman and asked what project was in store for our beloved trail. He had no idea. He called the county and

In this issue...

Chatter From the Chair	1-2
Why I Joined the Sierra Club	2
Wild Predator Myths	3-5
Poets and Patrons	6
Danada Wading Birds	7-8
Outings/Programs	9-11
Membership Form	12

DuPage Sierran

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learned that Commonwealth Edison, which owned an easement on the path leftover from the old railroad days, had a new plan. They intended to put huge transmission towers down the center line of the path necessitating the removal of trees from both sides. Immediately a committee was formed, and for the next seven years, it monopolized my life as well as my family. We rallied citizens in Warrenville, Wheaton, Naperville, West Chicago and Winfield. We hired a lawyer, held fundraisers, wrote letters and attended uncountable meetings. During the fury, it became apparent that we needed some more might

Continued on Page 2...



WHY I JOINED THE SIERRA CLUB

By Jane Foulser

As far as I can remember, my first activist venture with the Sierra Club was marching to prevent Interstate 88 from going through the Morton Arboretum property. When I retired in 1996, I finally had time to participate in more volunteer activities. I started attending Sierra Club meetings in Glen Ellyn and participated in the outings program.

In 1972 when we first moved from the city to Elmhurst, we took our children to visit Graue Mill, and I was shocked to read the sign on Salt Creek. It said, "Do not touch the water. By order of the DuPage County Board of Health." Wow," I thought, "that creek must be in really bad shape!"

In late 1999, a small group of River Prairie Group members met to discuss the possibility of a water-monitoring program, using the activities of the Fox River Group as a guide. As part of that initial planning group, I signed on as a water monitor on Salt Creek, and here I am, 15 years later still dipping a bucket in Salt Creek and toting it to the tester every couple of months, because I believe that if each one of us makes a little effort, it will make a big difference. Salt Creek is much improved from its 1972 condition. The Sierra Club contributed significantly to that improvement. I encourage you to join the Sierra Club and make a difference.

Chatter From the Chair Continued from Page 1

to fight the dragon. I contacted national groups such as Sierra Club, Rails to Trails, and Environmental Defense for support. Sierra Club came through. Chapter support came with letters on official stationery and a speech at a County Board meeting as well as some informal legal advice. We did not win the war over the power lines, but we had several successes along the way. The route was shortened by about four miles. In addition, the towers were built off to one side, impacting fewer trees and leaving the hard surface of the trail intact.

Lobbying for a local issue against powerful enti-

ties is very difficult. Having an association with Sierra Club gave me advice, encouragement and support in this effort. Initially, I became involved in Sierra Club for support on this cause in our community, but I have stayed involved for the myriad of benefits it offers, outings, education, restoration, service projects, and endorsement of elected officials, among other political issues. We hope we provide you with benefits. We want The River Prairie Group to meet the needs of our members and provide opportunities for you to be actively involved. Contact me with your suggestions or comments: twnstr111@msn.com.



MYTH: WILD PREDATORS BELONG ANYWHERE BUT HERE

Posted by Daisy Simmons on www.ecomythsalliance.org
September 26th, 2014. See more at: <http://www.ecomythsalliance.org/2014/09/myth-wild-predators-belong-anywhere-but-here/>

Meaty Topic: Are Large Carnivores Moving Into a New Neck of the Woods?

Plenty of people like the idea of big wild animals like bears, big cats and wolves roaming the land... in theory. Large meat-eaters can exude an aura of cool, plus, their babies are ridiculously cute. But when these top-of-the-food-chain creatures, aka apex predators, begin to expand their territory closer into ours, even the biggest animal lover in the room may be tempted to ask, "Uh, don't they belong, like, somewhere else?"

Myth busted – they belong just as much as any native species in the local ecosystem. Apex predators can help keep smaller animals from overrunning the place, ultimately keeping natural areas in balance. The trick is to learn how to peacefully coexist, as much as is possible, both for the average Joe and Jane and statewide management alike...and that starts by simply better understanding these animals and their role in the balance of life.

PSA: It's the Circle of Life!

What are apex predators, and why should we allow room for them in our world? Apex predators are animals that have no predator of their own, which means they play a critical role in keeping other species populations in check.

This matters because any time one species expands its population beyond what the ecosystem can support, it creates a ripple effect across the food chain, what in science speak is called a trophic cascade. So, if an herbivore population gets out-of-control big, it might eat up all the plants, which of course, threatens not only that particular herbivore's food supply, but, by extension, also harms the many other species that depend on those plants for food or shelter.

One dramatic example of this comes from Yellowstone, where gray wolves were reintroduced in 1995 to help manage the elk populations whose unfettered grazing had destroyed the landscape. By keeping elk numbers in better balance, some incredible things happened: Trees came back, which created the habitat to bring back beaver populations, which improved water flow and topography, which in turn attracted other animals for enhanced biodiversity...you get the drift.

Continued on Page 4...

“Apex Predators” Continued from Page 3

Here's the quick back story: Apex predators like wolves, bears and cougars once roamed much of the United States, keeping various populations in check all along the way. Then, of course, we big noisy humans came in, and many of them scooted to the outskirts, nary to be seen for decades – even centuries – in some areas.

Now, however, there's some good news: Progress in conservation and management efforts is paying off, and some of these species are now making a comeback. (Cue applause.) As their population size increases, so naturally does the overall terrain acreage over which these animals must roam to find enough food. A prime example of this geographic expansion is taking place right now in the Midwest, as evidence mounts that black bears, cougars and gray wolves from Wisconsin and Michigan are sniffing out new turf once again in Illinois – a state from which they've been absent for 150 years.

For more on the state of Illinois, we talked with Bill Zeigler, senior vice president of animal programs for Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo (CZS), and Mike Redmer, co-chair of the Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force and a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

“Bears, cougars and wolves are all part of the check and balance of nature,” says Zeigler. “In some areas we've got overpopulations of deer and raccoons that could serve as a prey base. These apex predators are beginning to reestablish themselves in Illinois of their own accord, and that could help achieve the natural balance of all these other animals.”

A Comeback Story

All signs point to Illinois – if you're a bear, wolf or cougar looking for new digs, that is. “These animals are expanding from the smaller ranges they had to claim back, to ranges that have historically been theirs,” says Redmer. “All were native to Illinois at one time, but have been gone for well over 100 years. It is likely because populations in surrounding states are doing well that some are starting to trek across the Midwest.”

So far, he says, in the last 14 years there have been eight confirmed cougar sightings in the state, 12-13 gray wolf sightings, and 2-3 bear sightings. Because these animals haven't been in the state until recently, there has been no official response plan. Redmer recalls the public outcry that

arose last November when an Illinois Department of Natural Resources officer shot and killed a cougar found roaming a farm in rural Illinois.

“Many people questioned why this big beautiful cat needed to be killed. Then more people realized that there was no law in Illinois that protected these three species, except for wolves south of I-80, where they are protected at a federal level.” Because these animals were simply not recognized as a native species in the Illinois wildlife code, there was no official procedure in place for what to do, say, if one should turn up in the governor's yard. Fortunately the public dialog picked up fast momentum from there, and just this August, the governor signed legislation giving black bears, cougars and gray wolves protective status.

The consensus among many wildlife biologists and organizations, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is that some of these apex predators are already “here” in Illinois, and more are likely to come. The challenge now is to come up with some basic ways to help us all safely coexist, and to ensure that best management practices – ones that minimize risk – are in place for those times we just can't.

Meating of the Minds

Though coexisting with these animals can actually be fairly simple on a day-to-day basis, there is real work to do in the scientific and state agencies in terms of helping we the peeps do our part to keep the peace – simply because it's a new issue. “There is a lack of thorough knowledge and understanding of how to live with large carnivores, largely because culturally this state has not had to live with them since the mid-1850s,” says Zeigler.

The key, agree Zeigler and Redmer, is to develop a smart, thoughtful approach to developing management and public awareness. This month, a roundtable of conservation hotshots organized by Chicago Wilderness, USFWS, USDA and the CZS are convening to discuss the ecological and human dimensions of returning apex predators, from management policy to what individuals should do if they see one of these animals on their land. The group has some big problems to solve – but it's taking its time to ensure it's doing so deliberately.

“Large carnivores returning to areas where they historically roamed is a serious matter,” says Redmer. “To be clear, they may not return in huge volume,

and it may not mean they actually breed here. But some of them are coming, and we need to be ready to live with the occasional guest.”

The Getalong Gang

Once we can get the conversations and strategic management policy updates underway, it becomes simpler on an individual household level. How do we know this? Just look at the many other areas around the country where people have long lived with meat-eating animals in their own backyards. Cases in point: The cougars chilling in Los Angeles and the thousands of coyotes that have lived in Chicagoland with only a few attracting public attention since making a major population comeback some 30 years ago. That said, it's not all sunshine and roses all the time. There are potential dangers, too, such as a hungry or otherwise threatened animal that might get aggressive – another big part of why it's important for Illinois leaders to develop informed abatement strategies that minimize risk.

“In Illinois we do have some learning to do about how to live with these animals. It's very doable to co-exist, though,” says Zeigler. States like North Carolina, New Jersey, and Georgia, among others, have lived with bears for a long time, he adds, while Florida and the western states have long lived with both cougars and bears.

Zeigler states strongly that we can coexist with these animals in almost any type of scenario, as long as we have the right information. We just might need to make some minor tweaks to our behavior, depending on where we live—and which of the three species we're talking about.

Even if they're living in some local woods, explains Redmer, you're probably not going to see wolves or cougars very much. If you do run across one on a hiking trail, he points out that there are some simple ways to show the animals you're not something to mess with. (Basically, when in doubt, don't run, just make yourself look large and in charge.)

Bears are a bit different, he says, mainly because, to put it mildly, they're kind of in to trash cans. “I try to remind people that one of the closest living relatives to bears are raccoons,” says Redmer. “A raccoon is just a mini bear with a tail – and you could make the analogy that a bear is just a giant raccoon.” That means, for starters, that you can simply use some of the same precautions for bears that you would for other wild scavengers.

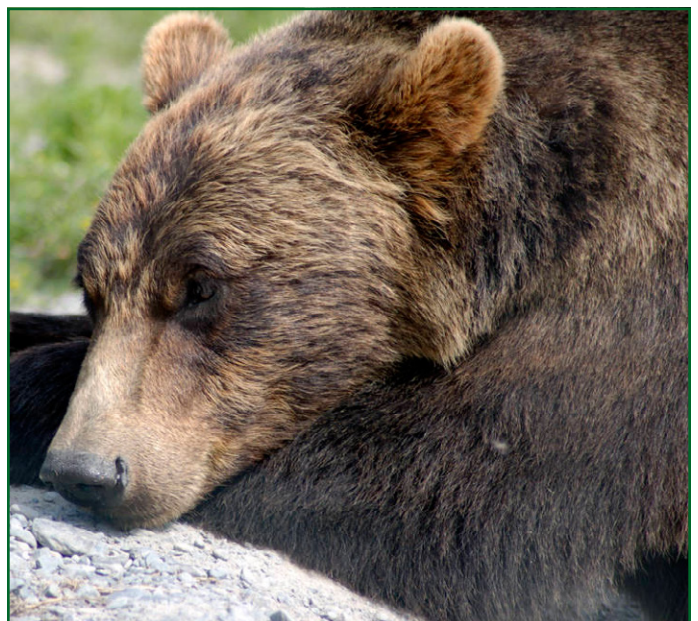
The bottom line, says Zeigler, is don't invite them into your backyard. Avoid leaving garbage uncovered, or putting out pet food. “All that stuff we do for raccoons applies to large carnivores. And when they are not influenced by [those things], they tend to stay in their own area.”

The jury is still out on just how this will all play out. But, even if only a few apex predators decide to take a chance at expanding their territory, there is some real value for all of us. Sure, it can be useful for population balance, and yes, it's important for an ecosystem to contain biodiversity...but there's also something simpler these animals can supply: a thrill. It's pretty cool to live in a time and place where apex predators are making a comeback.

“I think most people will like knowing maybe these guys will show up now,” muses Redmer. “It makes our lives a little more full now that they are more abundant.”

EcoMyth Outcome

Myth busted – apex predators belong in local ecosystems just as much as any species native to the area. They bring intrinsic value to the environment by helping keep smaller animals from overrunning the place, ultimately making natural areas better. The trick is to learn how to peacefully coexist as much as is possible.



Night Crawler in Mid-America Farm Country

by Maureen Tolman Flannery

In a clump of black dirt after a rain
a slimy earthworm,
having eaten its way through soil, exposes.
I am hypnotized
by the strange incremental elongation into light
of that which has its place in moist obscurity.
It grabs my attention
like a stallion's shocking capacity for extension
that demands I look away, discrete,
before glancing back to see.

While its lagging-behind stays firmly holed up,
the worm's forward-thrust gropes out and around,
parts the grass for a path
as sunlight begins to dry the curve of its upper half.
In proximity of my hand the home-bound end re-
tracts
calls back the exposed tunnel of itself.
This crawling intestine is digesting
the very ground beneath my feet,

I have lived such sightless groping
and retreats into familiar dark.
Passing through the world as the world passes
through it,
The fecund psyche, like this earthworm,
takes in the barren, spent, packed dry,
to produce what is loose, fertile, life-sustaining.

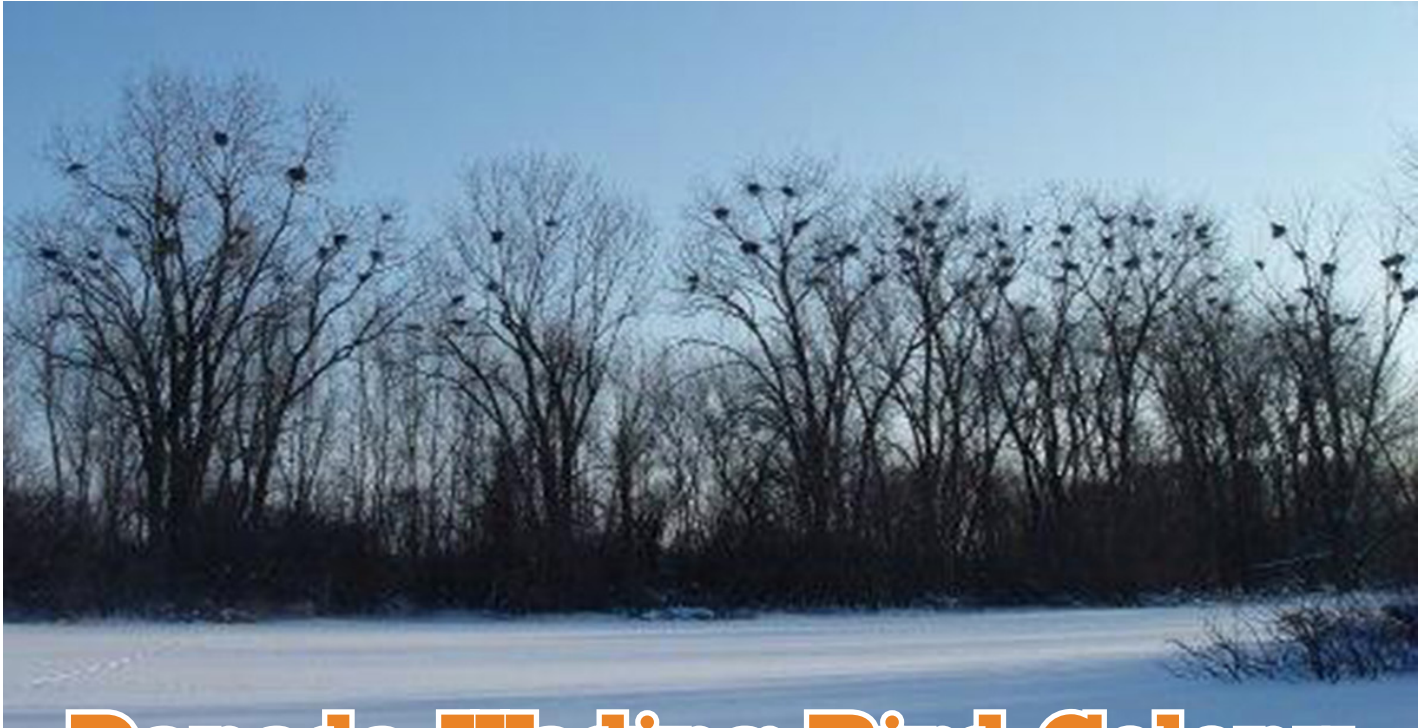
More than Memories

By Wilda Morris

Take nothing from the woods
but memories, they say,
but this overcast day, trout lilies
hang on thin stems, mayapple buds
hide beneath their green umbrellas,
bluebells begin to push their way
out of a twist of leaves, hesitant
to display their full beauty,
and rue anemone brighten the woods
with their white stars and golden
stamen. I kneel down, unable to resist
touching a pure, white petal.
I go, taking memories, the mud
on my shoes, and something
nameless that leaves me mute.

These two poems were selected as award winners in the “Nature” and “Midwest” theme categories by Poets & Patrons poetry group. Each year the poetry contest runs from May to September 1. The editors appreciate the permission to reprint the contributions of the poets, Maureen Tolman Flannery and Wilda Morris.

For more information visit the website poetsandpatrons.net.



Danada Wading Bird Colony

In recent weeks there has been much concern by professional ecologists and nature enthusiasts over a threat to an active 142-nest wading bird colony in Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton. Established in 1997, it is the largest and longest surviving colonial nesting site in DuPage County.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is looking to acquire adjacent land to build a large concert venue and parking lot that would emit amplified sound and intense lighting. The proposed development is intended to attract a wide variety of musical groups.

The proposed development is less than 300 feet away from the colonial nesting site, as the heron flies. Earlier this year symphony representatives made inquiries about obtaining land at the Morton Arboretum or at a forest preserve for the purpose of a building a concert venue with adequate parking. They were rebuked. Now CSO is initiating action to acquire a land parcel owned by Alcatel-Lucent near the northwest corner of Naperville Road and Warrenville Road, less than 300 feet in close proximity to the Nesting site. The proposed development is surrounded on three sides by Herrick Lake and Danada forest preserves. It is a poor location for a noise-producing venue.

In 2007, the same twelve-plus acres were the

subject of a forest preserve acquisition. The effort included filing and pursuing, for an extended period of time, an eminent domain lawsuit. Later, the majority of the commission voted to drop the parcel from the acquisition list, for no good reason, wasting hundreds of thousands of voter-approved land acquisition referendum dollars.

Danada Colony Facts



Established in 1997, the Danada nesting site is the largest and longest surviving colony in DuPage County.



In 2007, Herrick Lake and Danada (West) were listed as Illinois Important Bird Area(s) by Audubon, in part due to more than 100 nesting pairs of wading birds.



Hérons typically nest in areas isolated from human disturbance.

Continued on next page...

Danada Wading Birds Continued From Page 7



Distance to buildings is the strongest influence on rookery location [*negative association; Watts and Bradshaw 1994*].



Great Blue Herons are highly vulnerable to human disturbance [*Azerrad 2012*].



A single event involving human disturbance can lead an entire colony to terminate a nesting attempt. [*Eissinger 1997, Vennesland and Butler 2008, Vennesland and Butler 2011*]



Increased human disturbance at breeding and foraging sites can lead to increased predation, lower breeding success, nest failure and less efficient foraging [*Butler 1997, Gebauer and Moul 2001, Vennesland and Butler 2004*].



Though herons can nest in disturbed urban areas, disturbance can lead birds to terminate breeding attempts, especially when a disturbance occurs early in the nesting period or when it is a large or novel event [*Moul 1990, Vennesland 2010*].



Hérons may tolerate everyday human activities, but in general, birds often suspend nesting when they perceive the activity is a threat [*Vancouver Parks and Recreation 2006, Vennesland 2000*].



Hérons could tolerate limited recreational use during the nesting period beyond 570' of the rookery [*Taylor et al. 1981*].



Hérons can habituate to various repeated human activities that pose no direct threat; however, there are still significant risks to reproductive effort and success from most types of human disturbance regardless of habituation [*Taylor et al 1981*].



Most studies recommend a buffer of 984' (300 m) in which there are no activity occurrences during the season of February 15-July 31 [*Butler 1992*].



New activities should not add to the intensity of disturbance a colony has historically tolerated and adapted to, as a rule of thumb [*Azerrad 2012*].



There should be no construction of permanent structures within 650' of a rookery [*Vermont Fish and Wildlife 2002*].



In suburban/rural settings, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife recommends that activities generating sounds exceeding 92 decibels (when the sound reaches the outer boundary of the nesting colony) be avoided within 656' (200 m) of a nesting colony. Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts rate approximately 120 decibels and rock concerts rate approximately 150 decibels.

If you are interested in the preservation of this classified "Important Bird Area" please contact the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board members and convince them to acquire this land with DuPage County taxpayer-approved land acquisition referendum dollars. This is critical wading bird habitat that will be preserved for the purposes of conservation, education and recreation, if concerned citizens and conservation organizations become involved.

River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings

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, early signup is suggested.

See illinois.sierraclub.org/outings for new, current and updated outings, new RPG listings and offerings from other local groups.

Visit the new activity calendar at: illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/calendar/ The calendar includes meetings, events, dates, times, directions and maps.

Sat, Dec 6 – 9:00 AM-3:00 PM **Winter Hike at Starved Rock** **Starved Rock State Park, Utica**

A winter hike at Starved Rock is always a lot of fun. We'll view the massive sandstone walls much more easily with no foliage, and we may have the place to ourselves at this time of year. Excellent opportunity for photos of the canyons; so bring cameras, and binoculars, in case any eagles have shown up. Sierra Club leader and naturalist Ed Max will lead, and if necessary, may want to have an assistant leader, if we get a larger crowd. Aside from a few good climbs, the hike is fairly easy, though there may be a few stream crossings, depending on recent weather. Ed's also an admirer of trees and an arborist, so we'll have fun viewing the many tree species in this park, some rather unique to the area. Dress for the weather with layers and good boots; bring water and lunch. Rain or wintry weather cancels. Cost: \$3 per person. Contact: Ed Max at (630) 209-3005 or hortusmax@gmail.com.

Sat, Dec 13 – 1:30 PM **Lincoln Park Hike** **Lincoln Park, Chicago**

Join us for a winter wonderland hike through Lincoln Park. We will see a variety of sites – pedestrian trails, playing fields, Lincoln Park Zoo and the Children's Zoo, the lagoons, the North Pond and the Lincoln Park Conservatory that will have its holiday train on display. Limit 15. To sign up, contact Mary Fox at (312) 421-3655 or mlbikes@prodigy.net.

Sun, Dec 14 – 10:00 AM **Hike South Kettle Moraine** **John Muir Trail, LaGrange, WI**

Hike the rolling hills of the John Muir Trail in south-eastern Wisconsin. We will hike about eight miles at a moderate level. The weather should be crisp,

the hike invigorating. Let's take advantage of these days before winter sets in. Contact: Marlene Bertolozzi at (708) 267-4238 or marlenab@earthlink.net.

Fri-Sun, Jan 9-11 – Time TBD **Wolf Tracking Weekend** **Tomahawk, WI**

Join us in one of our more exciting outings as we spend a weekend in northern Wisconsin learning about wolf tracking. We will be utilizing Tree Haven, the outdoor research center of the Natural Resources Program offered by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Also on the agenda are snow fort-building, winter survival skills, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. A wolf howl and outdoor bonfire will take place Saturday night. Included in the price are two nights lodging, most meals and equipment rental. Limit 12. Cost: \$200, part of which goes to promoting Sierra Club initiatives. To sign up, contact Mark Ginger at (409) 789-7361 or bubbleman@outlook.com.

Sat-Sun, Jan 10-11 – Time TBD **Beginner Cross-Country Ski Clinic** **Location TBA**

Do you want to learn to cross-country ski? Do you know how but want to improve your skiing techniques? Participants will learn basic skills in a controlled area and then improve their skills on the trails with instructors. The \$25 cost includes a donation to support cross-country ski trails. Meals and lodging costs are not included. Limit 20 participants; intermediate skiers are welcome, but priority will be given to beginners. In the event of icy or warm weather conditions the clinic will be moved to the following weekend. Trip leaders are Donna & Steve Turner and Mike Davis. To sign up, contact Mike beginning December 15 at (815) 331-3042 or mikeyd5600@comcast.net.

Sun, Jan 18 - 2:00 PM
Book Discussion – *The Green Boat*
Helen Plum Library
110 W Maple St, Lombard

January Book – *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 S. Schmidt at (630) 393-6276 or twenstr111@msn.com.

Tues, Jan 20 – 7:00 PM
History of the Illinois Prairie Path
Glen Ellyn Public Library
400 Duane St, Glen Ellyn

Join us for our January meeting on January 20 at 7:00 PM. We will have a fabulous presentation on the Illinois Prairie Path. Kim Butler, Archivist at North Central College, will present the historical aspects, and Mary Jo Malach, Secretary, Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit Corporation, will present the current projects. Kim will illuminate the legacy of the IPP through a restored, historic film, and a series of stories with common themes and critical moments that tested the stamina and resilience of volunteers, landowners and all levels of government. Mary Jo will discuss current challenges and successes.

Sat-Sun, Jan 24-25
Cross-Country Ski Outing
Stevens Point, WI

Dust off those skis and join us for cross-country skiing at its best. We will stay in Stevens Point, about four hours from Chicago, and ski Saturday and Sunday on groomed trails in the area. The trails are suitable for skiers of all abilities; however, true beginners should attend the Beginner Cross-Country Ski Clinic January 10-11. Cost: \$135. This includes lodging (double occupancy) and trail passes but does not include food or transportation. If the conditions in Wisconsin are not good, this trip may be moved to the Cadillac, MI area. To register, contact Leaders Donna and Steve Turner at (630) 782-5865 or sdtturner@gmail.com.

Tues, Jan 27 – 7:00 PM
Book Discussion – *The Green Boat*
Warrenville Public Library
28W751 Stafford Place, Warrenville

See January 18.

Sun, Feb 1 – 9:00 AM
Eagles and Frozen Waterfalls
at Starved Rock State Park, Utica

Join us for a fun day of seeing the American Bald Eagle and frozen waterfalls at Starved Rock State Park. We may see the ice climbers and learn about the different colors of the frozen waterfalls. Foot wear traction devices such as "Yak Trax" are required for this trip as the trails can be icy. After the hike, there is an optional get-together for a bite to eat before heading home. Limit 20. Cost: \$3. Co-leader is Mark Ginger. Contact Leader Jan Bradford at (847) 455-2947 or jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net.

Sat, Feb 7 – 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Cross-Country Skiing in Berrien County, MI
Berrien Springs
Oronoko Charter Township, MI

Join us for cross-country skiing at beautiful Love Creek County Park located along the "Lake Michigan Snowbelt" in Berrien Springs, Mi. This is ideal for advanced beginner skiers or those who excelled at the cross-country ski clinic offered in January. We will ski six miles of trail at this lovely park. Lunch will be enjoyed inside the Nature Center in front of the fireplace and next to the floor-to-ceiling windows looking out into the woods. Ski rentals are available at the Nature Center. Limit 12. Cost: \$3 donation requested to help support Sierra Club initiatives. Assistant leadership available. To sign up, contact Leader Mark Ginger at (409) 789-7361 or bubbbleman@outlook.com.

Fri-Mon, Feb 13-16
Cross-Country Ski Weekend
Upper Peninsula of Michigan

It's a long three-day weekend cross-country ski trip to the UP of Michigan. We will ski at three local areas with excellently groomed ski systems. Excellently prepared dinners will be served on Saturday and Sunday nights in our great northwoods well-equipped cabin. Cost of approximately \$140 includes three nights lodging and two dinners. Trail fees or donations not included. To register or get more info, contact Leader Mike Davis at (815) 331-3042 or mikeyd5600@comcast.net.

Sun, Feb 15 – 2:00 PM
Book Discussion – *Never Cry Wolf*
Helen Plum Library
110 W Maple St, Lombard

February Book - *Never Cry Wolf*, by Farley Mowat: In this book, the author criticizes the Canadian government bureaucracy, which asked him in the late 1940s to investigate declining caribou populations believing that wolves were to blame. In his narrative, Mowat describes in first person what he learned while observing a den of wolves in the arctic tundra. In essence, he found wolves to be socially sophisticated, adaptable to local environmental conditions, and nonviolent toward men. He persuasively explains how he found that wolves were not the cause of the decline in caribou populations. He also describes how he came to know the Inuit tribes in the area and the nonconfrontational relationship the Inuits had with wolves. The beautiful descriptions of complex interrelationship between various animal species, including humans, suggests that modern civilization has lost touch with natural world. Discussion to be led by Jeff Gahris. For more information, contact Jeff at (630) 469-2056 or jgahris@wideopenwest.com.

Tues, Feb 24 – 7:00 PM
Book Discussion – *Never Cry Wolf*
Warrenville Public Library
28W751 Stafford Place, Warrenville

See February 15.

Thurs, Feb 26 (tentative) – Time TBD
Springfield Lobby Issues for 2015
Helen Plum Library
110 W Maple St, Lombard

Linda Sullivan will discuss the state environmental issues for 2015. Each year, Sierra Club volunteers from across the state descend on their elected representatives and senators in the home districts and in Springfield to further the environmental agenda for our state. Join us to learn details on the priorities for this year.

Sat-Sun, Feb 28-Mar 1
Follow-the-Snow Cross-Country Weekend
Location TBD

We'll try to get one more ski weekend in before spring. The trip location will depend on snow conditions in WI and MI, but we will keep it within five hours driving time of Chicago. To register, contact Leaders Donna and Steve Turner at (630) 782-5865 or sdturner@gmail.com.

For up to date information, visit the IL chapter outings at: illinois.sierraclub.org/outings and the RPG Activity Calendar at: illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/calendar.

2015 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS NOW AT TWO LOCATIONS!

The River Prairie Group is sponsoring multiple book discussions this winter. Simply purchase, download or borrow the books listed below and join us at the two locations listed. At Helen Plum Library in Lombard, the group meets on Sundays at 2:00 PM January 18, February 15 and March 15. The discussions will repeat at the Warrenville Public Library on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM January 27, February 24 and March 24 (see calendar for details). The books can be ordered at a 10% discount at The Bookstore in Glen Ellyn.



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

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- ___ Supporting \$100
- ___ Life \$1250
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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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