

DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

ELECTION ISSUE



Bur oak in McHenry County known by some as The Sentinel Oak as it occupies an old fence line separating a former woodlot from a hay field. Photo by Greg Rajsky.

Letter from the Editor

For the past couple of years, each issue of the *DuPage Sierran* has been loosely organized around a theme. This past January, it was decided the September issue would focus on trees, those members of the plant community that provide essential ecological services and play an often under appreciated role in our daily lives. When the time arrived for putting the theme in motion, a group of writers, readers and environmentalists were called upon for suggestions and came up with surprisingly metaphoric ideas, several of which have found their way into this issue.

You're invited to explore this issue's offerings of food forests, playful botanizing, how to catch the fall color along local trails, the delights of family camping at a DuPage forest preserve, an update on Cool DuPage, and a review of *Seeing Trees*, a guide to closely viewing the amazing engineering, beauty and vitality of trees.

The fall issue announces the candidates for the River Prairie Group's Executive Committee, the

In this issue...

Food Forests for All.....	2-3
Learning to Botanize Poem	4
Seeing Trees	5
Camping in DuPage	6
Environmental Activism.....	7-8
Cool Counties	9
Outings.....	10-11
Events.....	12-13
Candidate Statements.....	14
Committee Ballot	11
Utah's Red Rock Canyonland	15



DuPage Sierran

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Terry Witt, Andrew Van Gorp,

Layout: Dave Blake

For activities, legislative action alerts, & outings information

[Http://illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg)

We are on Facebook!

[Http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Prairie-Group_of_the_Sierra_Club/96257429851](http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Prairie-Group_of_the_Sierra_Club/96257429851)

governing board for the local Sierra Club group. All current Sierra Club members in DuPage county are eligible to vote. A printable ballot has been included for your convenience. Readers are encouraged to review the candidates' statements, familiarize yourself with the voting process and send completed ballots to Joe Pokorny at 1627 Buckingham Ave. Westchester, IL 60154-4224.

FOOD FORESTS FOR ALL!

By Jodi Trendler

What is a food forest?

Imagine... taking a relaxing evening stroll through your neighborhood, and as you are walking, you casually reach out and harvest an apple, or a pear, or a plum, or a peach, or a handful of berries that are easily accessible along the sidewalk within front yards and parkways to enjoy as a refreshing snack. There is no concern of scorn about taking someone else's property, because there is such abundance the feeling of scarcity doesn't even exist. It is known that anyone is welcome to enjoy, and that the notion of sharing, generosity and abundance is paramount for the whole community. THIS is what a food forest is.

An edible food forest or a forest garden is a designed perennial food system. The system mimics the architecture and beneficial relationships of a natural forest or woodland. Food forests are not 'natural', but are designed and managed ecosystems that are rich in biodiversity and productivity. These systems are designed to ultimately be self-maintaining while providing significant yields for people and supporting a diversity of wildlife.

Permaculture food forests rely heavily on perennial polyculture versus annual monoculture production. Polycultures are dynamic, self-organizing plant communities composed of several species grown in groups known as guilds. Guilds are a harmoniously interwoven group of plants and animals that are of benefit to people while also creating habitat for other organisms, and supporting each other through various functional roles. Some of these interwoven functional roles include: nitrogen fixing, dynamic accumulators, insectaries, pest deterrents, mulches or allelopathy. Some of the potential yields from these systems include food for humans and wildlife, medicinal plants, fiber, dyes, wood, fuel, and oils. All components in the system function together, bringing in the larger cycles and patterns of nature and creating a healthier permaculture food forest landscape.

Food forests, which are essentially the community level scale of designed perennial food systems,



Photo by Tom Richardson.

are the pinnacle of community food production systems where many, and larger scale public areas are developed into food producing systems. There are varying degrees of implementation for the concept, however. A system can begin with the installation of one simple fruit tree "guild" into a 10'x10' area of a suburban home landscape. This could be comprised of a single dwarf fruit tree and a few select supporting plants such as lead plant, comfrey, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, daffodils, garlic, chives, and asters. The next level of scale, an edible forest garden, would include several different "guilds" designed to interact as a single system, and encompass a larger area or ideally an entire suburban yard.

There are myriad reasons that the large scale and profuse development of these types of systems could be beneficial, including:

1. Increased food security.
2. Producing food and consumer products locally.

3. Improved soils.
4. Reduced need for the transportation of food and goods, thus reducing the consumption of fossil fuels.
5. Reduced costs, both financial and environmental of processing food and goods.
6. Increased health benefits due to consuming higher nutritional levels in freshly harvested goods.
7. Increase in exercise in harvesting the goods.
8. Increased biodiversity.
9. Increased social interactions and community systems.
10. Improved water conservation.
11. Eliminates need for artificial, fossil fuel based fertilizers and pesticides.
12. Potential local job creation



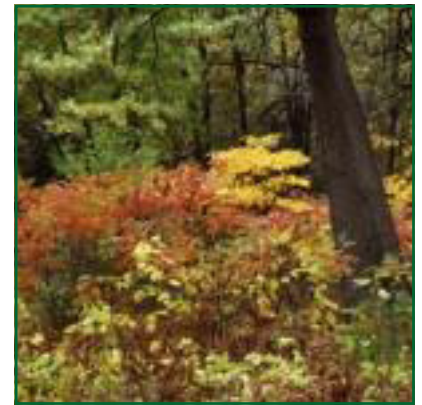
The Resiliency Institute in Naperville is designing and building the first edible forest garden in Naperville for The Conservation Foundation, the land owner of the 60 acre McDonald Farm where The Resiliency Institute conducts programming. This edible forest garden will serve as a demonstration site for property owners, educational component for organization programs, water management technique, as well as a conservation and recreation property component.

Along with offering educational programming, The Resiliency Institute engages in community outreach efforts including free presentations to community groups, participating in educational and environmental events, and developing community food forests.

Programming offered through The Resiliency Institute includes the official 72 hour Permaculture Design Certification course, advanced design workshops, and various re-skilling classes and hands-on workshops such as:

- Gardening
- Water Management
- Beekeeping
- Ecological Building
- Sustainable Living
- Renewable Energy
- Community Building
- Food Preservation/Preparation

If you are interested in participating in the installation of the first edible forest garden in Naperville please contact The Resiliency Institute: www.theresiliencyinstitute.net or contact@theresiliencyinstitute.net.



About the Author

Jodi Trendler completed her Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) in 2012 through Midwest Permaculture. She is actively engaged in her community and volunteers much of her time to educating others about environmental issues. She manages the Naperville Area Sustainability and the Suburban Chicago Permaculture Guild MeetUp groups, serves on the City of Naperville Tree Preservation Committee, was the Founding Organizer of Naperville Green Drinks, served five years as Vice-President of the non-profit organization Naperville for Clean Energy and Conservation, and was a member of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Cindy Takes Tree Identification and Ecology, N242A ("Learning to Botanize")

A
box elder
is a maple, and oddly enough
the scarlet oak is not the same as
a red oak. Oaks are in the beech family,
which includes
the copper beech; red of course.

Aesculus, part of the Latin name for buckeye, also means oak, but the buckeye is part of the horse chestnut gang, although kissing cousin to the walnuts. Yellow bud hickories are walnuts; tulip poplars are magnolias and poplar trees are willows. Slippery elm leaves are scratchy.

Ginkgos are living fossils.

River birch has orange bark and thus in Latin is "black birch." Northern cedar is also called eastern arborvitae; its Latin name means "from the west." Lindens are limes in England, but in a different order than oranges and lemons --- and kin to chocolate. The Latin name for the London plane tree, a hybrid of the sycamore, is *hispanica*, which means "from Spain." The sycamore that Zaccheus climbed in the Gospels is

actually a fig.

Tree of
heaven
is sadly
a weed.

About the Author

Cindy Crosby is the author of *By Willoway Brook: Exploring the Landscape of Prayer* about the Schulenberg Prairie, which *Chicago Wilderness* magazine called one of the region's "great reads." Contact Cindy through www.cindy-crosby.com.

Seeing Trees:

Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees

By Nancy Ross Hugo
Photography by Robert Llewellyn
Reviewed by Lonnie Morris

Pictured: Detail of the distinctive bark of the shag bark hickory.



Inspiration for spending more time outdoors can pop up in surprising places, such as the dark interior recesses of the local library. If you happen to come upon the visually stunning book, *Seeing Trees*, you'll quickly find yourself heading outdoors to become better acquainted with the trees living in your neighborhood.

Trees are difficult subjects for viewing up close. Size and immobility can transform their presence into landscape furniture, familiar shapes that often escape notice, while slow growth makes it easy to overlook their vitality and beauty. By the time many trees are mature enough to produce flowers and fruit, they've reached heights of 15 – 30 feet, so that detailed viewing is a challenge. Many of the tiny blossoms are hidden in the treetops, and seldom seen.

Nancy Hugo shares observations gained from her many years of mindful tree watching while Robert Llewellyn's innovative photographic techniques provide stunning examples of what can be revealed by paying attention. Botany, art, and cultural history combine to invite the reader into a new way of seeing

Hugo dips into a deep well of language in conveying the intricacies of a visual experience. She recalls a walk with her young grandchildren when she described the bark of a white oak as "alligatorated,"

thinking it would catch their attention, only to realize its limitations for children who had never seen an alligator. Acknowledging that contemporary references may be necessary to reach a new generation of naturalists, she quotes journalist Will Cohe's comments on beech bark as looking like a woman who has "just emerged from a wax and massage" with maybe a bit of Botox thrown in.

In the first section of the book, Hugo introduces readers to the traits of a tree, bark texture, leaf shape, buds, leaf scars, flowers and fruit with a warmth and affection that makes the botanical descriptions come alive. In the second section, she describes in delightful detail the characteristics of 10 common tree species, most of which can be found in Illinois. The use of stories and anecdotes to illustrate the characteristics makes them memorable. You'll never forget that sycamores have large hollow trunks after reading Hugo's account of British army deserters in the 1760's who spent three years living in one!

Seeing Trees equips readers to set out on their own path of discovery. Whether you view them during an evening neighborhood stroll, through the lens of a camera, or from a ladder against its trunk, you'll never look at a tree the same way after reading this book.

Dad, Can We Go Camping?

Outdoor Fun in DuPage

By Terry Witt

Josh and Jake are brothers 18 months apart. They love to explore the forest preserves near home with their dad, our younger son. Two summers ago when Jake turned 6, Josh was 7-1/2, not just 7. Jake quickly added that when Josh turned 8, he would be 6-1/2, not just 6 any longer.

They decided it would be fun if they took their dad and me to Trempealeau County Wisconsin. Wisconsin is a beautiful state. We had a wonderful time. We biked the rail tunnels on the Leroy Sparta trail. We climbed high above the Mississippi River on Brady's Bluff Trail. We canoed the Voyagers' Trail at Perot State Park. The food was good and sleep was sound.

On the drive home the boys were ready to tackle the Rocky Mountains next summer. The boys wanted to camp out, they wanted to hike, fish, canoe. They would like their cousins to come. They wanted to be in the woods. They were describing the perfect vacation. They were describing DuPage County.

When next year came, we rented three Blackwell Forest Preserve campsites. We were a troop of tenderfoots in a whole new world. After the best supper ever, crickets serenaded us to sleep. The sunrise kids hiked the Egret Trail. Our little fishermen hugged the shoreline after breakfast cleanup. Our explorers canoed the fringe around Silver Lake, which quickly led to a race or two from one side to the other.

By noon, we were happy and tired. We gave in to the comforts of home that afternoon. Lunch became hot dogs on the backyard grill and afternoon naps were the activity of choice. For that one overnight, DuPage County was our outdoor adventure filled with lifelong memories, and a new appreciation for what we have.

About the Author

Terry and Sunny Witt moved to DuPage County in 2007 and enjoy time with their four married children and 11 grandchildren.



**Witt family campers at Blackwell Forest Preserve.
Photo by Terry Witt**

College Offers Lesson in Environmental Activism

By Andrew Van Gorp

I was born and raised between the East and West Branches of the Dupage River. Three years ago while a student at Northland College, a small private college nestled into the southern shore of Gichee Gumii (Lake Superior), I was swept up into the most exhilarating adventure of my life.

As mineral resources were depleted in Wisconsin, Northern Wisconsin's post-clearcut and post-ore economies were largely left in shambles. In the destruction's wake the students of Northland College hoped to bring about environmental stewardship as well as upward mobility and social justice for the local Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) peoples.

The timing of my education at Northland seemed no mere coincidence as a corporation named Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) set its eyes on one of the last and lowest quality ore bodies in Wisconsin, deep within the Penokee Hills, for mountain top removal mining. I learned from an Elder of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Joe Rose, that the word Penokee derives from an Ojibwe name, meaning "Living Potato Earth" or "Opin Aki." As an Illinoisian at heart, the issue seemed foreign at first. I kept thinking that this mine was not my fight. It quickly became surreal as the local tensions escalated and I realized that the mine affected me whether I liked it or not. The local community quickly divided into two factions, pro and anti-mining. It felt as though I was wrapped up in some fantasy story, billowed about by the rising action. People were (and are) getting into arguments in the street about the mine! Apparently this was a big deal. I became interested and began to prick up my ears whenever the conversation turned to the mine.

Many people are not aware due to a lack of media coverage that Wisconsin recently passed two bills basically signing away almost all of the environmental protections for a clean environment with

regards to this mine. It became public knowledge that the mining company wrote the bill, almost in its entirety. I began to worry. If this mine was exempted from pretty much all regulation... what the heck would that mean?!

Actively seeking out more information, it became apparent that the Bad River wild rice beds are directly downstream from the proposed mining site. I learned that even a small change in the Ph of the water from mine drainage would mean affect the rice harvest, causing a slow cultural genocide for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, breaking their treaty right to harvest from the land and water. Furthermore, the wetland resources within the Bad River Reservation comprise about 40% of all coastal wetlands within the Lake Superior basin. On top of that, they were recognized as a Wetland of International Importance in 2012. That's a lot of drinking water folks.

Many of the students at Northland College began to feel hopeless and helpless in the face of such well-funded adversity. However, Northland College's student body has never been one to remain oblivious or obliging to injustice- we are politely and proudly self-described as, "outspoken." In an exciting example of solidarity, the Northland College Student Association rallied to pass a resolution condemning the bad pieces of legislation, which passed unanimously!

When interviewed, Courtney Remacle (Director of Sustainability for the NCSA) had to say, "This legislation essentially guts the regulatory processes for mining in the state of Wisconsin...It is unconscionable for us to allow this to happen in such a beautiful, sacred, diverse, and ecologically important area."

Story Continued on Page 8...

Andrew Van Gorp, Continued from Page 7

Madeline Jarvis, the NCSA President was able to tour the areas that could be affected by the mine's 22 square mile footprint, "I had no idea what to expect when I was able to tour the sites with Bill Heart and Pete Rasmussen of the Penokee Mountain Education Project. We saw the proposed first-phase mining site, key watershed features, a five-generation family farm, and the headwaters of the Bad River. I thought this experience would be important to me as a student leader, but was moved on a personal level by the majestic beauty of the region."

Karen Breit, a student of Northland College was able to offer a unique perspective of the importance for the Ojibwe people, "Long ago our people travelled from the East Coast to carry out the vision of one of our prophecies. The prophecy said to travel the land until we found food that grew on water. When we arrived in this region, we found Manoomin, or wild rice. This food has sustained our people for generations, and its hard to put its value for us into words, as you can imagine...it's hard to argue with those that say that mining can produce a lot of economic wealth- it does. However, that wealth is not going to the local communities, it is funneled away to shareholders and businesspeople from far away. Once a mine has been tapped for it's resources, the local economy experiences a collapse based upon the vacuum the large extraction corporation leaves behind. I mean you can read tons of research on this resource depletion cycle of boom and bust, it's very well documented."

When I first came to Northland College, a geology professor named Tom Fitz told us about a rare isotope ratio of oxygen that is unique to Gitchee Gumii. When you live in this place and drink the water, you literally carry the Lakewater in your blood once you leave. Through the years there, I began to see the many connections my homeland had with this new home I'd found, as well as the many connections I now held to the place. The stories of these two places are intimately interwoven, and have been for some time. We will all be very much affected by what will happen in Northern Wisconsin. I carry that lakewater with me today, and my blood cries out to defend it.

I was proud to have played a small part in the defense of humanity's future as a Northland College



Above: Photos of the proposed mining site at the Penokee Hills in Wisconsin. Photos courtesy of <http://www.miningimpactcoalition.org/>.

Student by condemning the irresponsible stewardship of our resources, and I hope that all those connected and affected by this issue will educate themselves and stand likewise in solidarity to protect present and future human life.

About the Author

Andrew Van Gorp is a recent graduate of the small Environmental Liberal Arts College named Northland, graduating with an undergraduate degree in Sustainable Community Development. While at Northland, Andrew participated in the Native American Student Association, serving also as the Vice President for the Northland College Student Association. Andrew has a passion for preserving and passing down the Culture of Place. Organic farming is on Andrew's horizon a little ways down the path, with a goal to remain in DuPage County. This is Andrew's first article for the Sierra Club.



In the fall of 2012, DuPage County boldly signed onto the Illinois Sierra Club's Cool Counties Initiative. DuPage was the first county in Illinois to sign onto the 2.0 version of the program. The initiative set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by 2020 and 20 percent by 2030.

DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin recently strengthened the pledge by creating the DuPage Green Government Council. The Council is an appointed collection of environmental experts that meet regularly to achieve environmental objectives placed by the County.

"We have selected environmental and sustainability leaders in their chosen industry to help us attain our energy efficiency goals outlined in the Sierra Club's Cool Counties program to reduce greenhouse emissions. With their help, we will achieve significant energy and natural gas savings that will positively affect DuPage families, businesses and organizations," said Cronin.

Since setting these goals, the County has worked with a variety of entities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through the Energy Impact Illinois program, residents reduced CO2 emissions by 9.2 million pounds per year.

Illinois Sierra Club Cool Cities Chairperson Lonnie Morris expects positive results from DuPage County and the Green Government Council.

"DuPage becoming a cool county offers an opportunity for unifying and amplifying municipal clean, green energy initiatives and making them available throughout the county," she said.

DuPage County has long been a leader in environmental practices. With the expertise of the Green Government Council and the Sierra Club, DuPage will continue to focus resources on environmental sustainability initiatives.

For more information on the Green Government Council visit dupageco.org/greengovcouncil.



Members of the DuPage Green Government Council.

L-R backrow: Todd Thornburg, Manager of Commercial and Industrial Services, ComEd; Rick Smith, Area General Manager, Johnson Controls; Dan Cronin, Chairman DuPage County Board; John Dunlap, Strategic Solutions Area Director, TRANE; Brett Thomas, Marketing Manager, Calamos Family Partners.

Front row, L-R: Lonnie Morris, Sierra Club Cool Cities; Brook McDonald, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Conservation Foundation; Kris Bachtell, Vice President Collections and Facilities, Morton Arboretum; Tom Kallay, Director of Regional Community Relations and Economic Development, Nicor. **Not pictured:** Mike Kearney, Senior Director of Energy Environmental Solutions for Americas, Siemens Infrastructure and Cities.

Photo courtesy of DuPage County.

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.

Including updates on those below, new RPG listings, and offerings from other local Groups, current listings are on the internet at: illinois.sierraclub.org/outings.

For our new Activity Calendar which includes meetings and events, and offers map and direction links, go to: illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/calendar

Sept 12-15 (Thu-Sun) Porcupine Mountain Wilderness Fall Hikes, Ironwood, MI

Two and a half days of hiking at the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula 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. Cost: \$130 includes: 3 nights lodging at the Indianhead Motel, 823 East U.S. 2 (Cloverland Drive), Ironwood, MI (906) 932-2031 www.indianheadmotel.com, 3 continental breakfasts, and Sierra Club costs. Full payment is required in advance. Limit 14. Leader: Paul Saindon. Assistant leader: Diane Fram. Email Paul at paul@pauls.us to sign-up.

Sept 22 (Sun) Hike at Danada Herrick First Day of Fall, Wheaton

Come join me on the "autumnal equinox" for a day hike at Danada Herrick. We should see the beginning fall colors and perhaps some fruit on trees. We will try and identify both plants and birds for a fun day of hiking. Cost \$3. Limit 20. Co-leader Mike Way. After the hike, there will be an option to go out for a bite to eat. Please contact Jan Bradford at 847-455-2947 or e-mail at Jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

Oct 4-6 (Fri-Sun) Bike n Hike Weekend in Park County Rockville, IN

Come on out for a fall weekend of cycling and hiking in Park County, Indiana. Biking will be on country roads and cover approximately 40 miles through "covered bridge heaven". The Covered Bridge Fest is held a week later but we will be there without all

the tourists. Hiking will be on the trails at Shades State Park, which is where we will be camping. Cost of \$45 covers three meals and administrative costs. Limit 15. Leader is Mark Ginger. To sign up, contact Mark at bubbleman@outlook.com. Assistant Leader needed.

Oct 11-13 (Fri-Sun) Fall Weekend Get Away Hikes in Shawnee Murphysboro, IL

Come join us for a hike in the La-rue Pine Hills bluffs and the snake migration road that is closed every spring and fall on Saturday. And Little Grand Canyon hike on Sunday. Elevation on this hike is around 400' so hikers must be in good physical condition. On both days naturalist Ed Max will be with us to identify plants and trees that are unique to this area. This is a lodge base weekend you won't want to miss. Leader Jan Bradford and Naturalist Ed Max Limit 10-20 cost will be around \$160 for two nights lodging and fees. We will go out Saturday night for a group supper together. Contact Jan Bradford at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net 847-455-2947 NOTE: IF YOU WANT TO HIKE JUST ONE OF THE DAYS OR BOTH WITHOUT LODGING COST IS \$3 PER DAY - All are welcome for the group supper Saturday night. Please contact leader.

Oct 12 (Sat) Cycling the Sugar River Trail Brodhead, WI

Join us for a fall ride along the Sugar River Trail from Brodhead to New Glarus, Wisconsin. This linear trail is one of Wisconsin's first rails to trails conversions. This linear trail follows the railroad bed of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul line. We will cover 46 miles on the limestone path. Lunch will be in New Glarus,

known as "America's Little Switzerland". Limit 15. Leader is Mark Ginger. Co- Leader is Mike Davis. To sign up, contact Mark at bubbleman@outlook.com.

**Oct 19 (Sat)
Fall Canoe and Jay's
Oregon, IL**

Come join us for a beautiful day on the Rock River. We will identify birds, see fall colors (hopefully) and do a group float. Afterwards, we will go to Jay's for a bite to eat or ice cream before heading home. Limit 20. Cost \$36. Co-leader is Mike Way. Contact Leader Jan Bradford at 847-455-2947 or e-mail jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

**Oct 20 (Sun)
White Pines State Park Hike and
Dome House Tour, Polo, IL**

Come join me for fall hiking at White Pines State Park which is one of the most beautiful state parks in the Oregon area-bring your camera. We will forge over a river (on stepping stones), bridges, and stairs, enjoy/explore, and learn about this protected area. Later we will go to Polo to get a tour of an energy

saving dome house. Our tour guide(s) will identify energy tips and explain part of the construction and other points of interest that make their house unique. Please contact leader Jan Bradford at 847-455-2947 after 7:00 PM or jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net. Limit 20. Cost \$3. Co-Leader is Mike Way.

**Oct 24-27 (Thu-Sun)
3-Day Backpack in Hoosier National Forest,
Yellowwood State Forest, Nashville, IN**

A moderately paced fall color adventure of backpacking, camping, and hiking through the forested hills of south-central Indiana. Learn how the Forest Service is gradually increasing the acreage in this National Forest. Covering about 7 miles on each of 3 days (Fri-Sun), we'll backpack into the forest on Friday, camping by a stream. We will spend the middle day in hiking and exploring this vast wilderness area, and backpack out on the third day. Suitable for beginners in good physical condition, having solid hiking experience, and for experienced backpackers as well. Trip fee of \$25 is due 6 weeks prior to trip start date. Limit 14. Email Leader Paul Saindon at paul@pauls.us or call 815 310 0001 after 5 PM to sign up.

River Prairie Group Executive Committee Ballot

- Vote for a candidate by checking off the box next to his/her name
- Vote for up to three candidates
- Print your full name and address on the underside of the envelope for membership verification, and mark it to the attention of: The Elections Committee, n/c Joe Pokorny, 1627 Buckingham Ave., Westchester, IL 60154 by 12/15/13.
- Joint members may use a xerox copy for a second ballot. Indicate "joint" on the outside of the envelope and list both joint members' names.

Tom Richardson

Pete Pontamianos

Jeff Gahris

“Use the Illinois Prairie Path Days”



The Illinois Prairie Path Not-For-Profit Corporation will be concluding a one-year long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Path with its event “Use the Illinois Prairie Path Days.”

Following is information about the event:

When: Saturday, September 28 through Monday, September 30

Where: Use the Illinois Prairie Path on any or all of its 62 miles: check www.ipp.org for a map of the Path.

What: Use and enjoy the Illinois Prairie Path!

Why: Monday, September 30, 2013 is the 50th Anniversary of the proposal to establish the Illinois Prairie Path as the 1st Rail-to-Trail in the United States.

How: Enjoy any or all of the 62 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Path. Some suggested activities include: take a bike ride, run or walk; set up an easel just off the path & paint or draw a picture; look for wildlife & their tracks; take pictures of wildflowers & trees; sit next to the path and read or write, or walk to your favorite restaurant or picnic spot using the path.

Additionally: Members of the Illinois Prairie Path Not-For-Profit Corporation's Board will be at the Path's Mile Marker 0, in Wheaton, on both September 28 & 29 from 10:30am to 12:30pm to hand out bottles of water and greet people using the Path.

Group Ride, Bicycle and Horse Share-the-Path Safety Seminar

The DuPage County Bicycle Promotion Committee, Trail Riders of DuPage, and the Sierra Club will be holding an event on Sunday, September 29. At 9:00am in downtown Warrenville, there will be a “Bicycle and Horse Share-the-Path Safety Seminar,” followed by a bike ride to Wheaton.

All are invited to demonstrate the “Share the Trail” camaraderie of trail users in DuPage. Horse owners, bicyclists and pedestrians or joggers will gather informally for a brief discussion on trail safety led by Connie Schmidt of Trail Riders of DuPage and Terry Witt of the League of Illinois Bicyclists

For more information visit:

<http://www.dupageco.org/bikeways>

THE PEDALING DUO: LIVING A DREAM A YEAR-LONG WORLD TRIP ON A RECUMBENT TANDEM

The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club will host a program entitled “The Pedaling Duo: Living a Dream” on Monday, October 21st, 2013 at 7 pm at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Presenters Rose and Gary Zinkann will discuss their year-long world trip on a recumbent tandem bike that took 293 days, from June 2010 to April 2011, during which time they biked 7,404 miles and visited eleven different countries on three continents.

The Pedaling Duo: Living a Dream
Monday, October 21st, 2013 at 7 pm
Glen Ellyn Public Library
400 Duane Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Catch the Color From the Trail



Photo by Tom Richardson

Autumn's cooler weather is a delightful time for experiencing the fall color while enjoying a bike ride along DuPage County's outstanding trail system. On Sunday, October 6th 2013, you're invited to participate in the county-wide Catch the Color DuPage event by kicking-off a ride, walk or skate from Bicycle's Etc, located in College Square, Lisle. Between 10 am and noon, Bicycle Etc is offering free trail maps, bike

checks and brief refreshers on bike safety and trail etiquette. For riders new to the DuPage Trail system or anyone who is interested, guided tours will leave

from the bike shop every half hour from 10 a.m. to noon.

Safari Café conveniently located in College Square will be open at 9:30 a.m. for some last minute carbo-loading and a cup of coffee, tea or other beverages.

Riders also have the choice of designing their own ride on the 6 to 40 miles of trail accessible from the bike shop. The trails offer safe road crossings at signal controlled intersections and cross walks. We encourage everyone to wear helmets. For those who have skipped more exercise opportunities than meals, plan on some moderate hills. You could also carry your bikes by car and start from a number of parking places along the DuPage River Trail.

After you have completed your ride everyone is invited to the Green Trails Block Party held at College Square starting at 1 pm. Safari Café will continue to be open for lunch and food is also available at the Block Party.

For those traveling to Lisle by train with their bikes, we will meet you at the Burlington Northern station at 9:31 a.m. and guide you to the bike shop. Other than food, beverages, or bike repairs you may wish to purchase--the ride, map, guide, and safety checks are all free.

For more information you can check: www.dupageco.org/bikeways/



The Prairie Food Co-op and Lombard Historical Society will host the first annual Harvest Fest September 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Victorian Cottage Museum at 23 W Maple in Lombard.

This family friendly event will include live music, face painting and will feature organic corn, sausage and apples. Food tickets available for purchase at event. All proceeds from Harvest Fest will support start-up costs for the Prairie Food Co-op

and the Carriage House Expansion Project for the Lombard Historical Society.

The Prairie Food Co-op and Lombard Historical Society partnership was created to celebrate and support local and sustainable lifestyles.

More information can be found at the Prairie Food Co-op website <http://prairiefood.coop/> or by contacting the Lombard Historical Society at 630.629.1885 or www.lombardhistory.org.

Annual RPG Executive Committee Elections

Vote and be part of creating the leadership team for the River Prairie Group

Candidate Statements



Tom Richardson:

I have held a number of positions in RPG including the following: ExCom: 2008-2013, Co-Chair Conservation Committee, 2009-2013, Political/Lobby Committee, 2009-2013, Representative to DuPage River Salt Creek Work Group (a water quality organization), 2005-2011. Representative to the FPD of DuPage County, 2011-2013.

The RPG has made significant progress in local lobbying and endorsing local and state candidates and I want to continue helping with that effort. We are having a positive impact on understanding what impacts water quality and implementing solutions to impairment, and I wish to continue working in that area. I enjoy working cooperatively with the other ExCom members in addressing the wide range of local and state environmental issues and believe I can continue to assist effectively in those efforts.



Pete Potamianos:

Pete Potamianos has been a Sierra Club member since 1994. He's an avid hiker and enjoys backpacking and biking. He's a graduate of Sierra Club's National Outings Leaders Training course and is currently certified in Wilderness First Aid and in the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR program.

Pete taught at the College of DuPage in the department of Field and Integrated Studies. Since 1996, he has lead students on hiking and backpacking trips to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Glacier.

Pete holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois and is a retiree of Ameritech (now AT&T). He lives with his wife Mary in Glen Ellyn and has a son in Arcata, California and a daughter in Chicago. E-mail: p220@myway.com



Jeff Gahris:

As a 23 year resident of DuPage County and an environmental engineer working on environmental issues in places like Detroit, Jeff served on Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission for about 12 years. More recently, Jeff organized the Glen Ellyn Cool Cities Coalition, which promotes energy conservation and reduction of greenhouse gases. As a member of the Naperville Astronomical Association and the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting, he has advocated efficient and appropriate use of outdoor lighting. He is also a certified storm spotter. When not looking at the sky, he can be seen volunteering for local gardening efforts and natural area restorations, or playing with solar panels. He has been a member of the Sierra Club since about 1980.



southern
utah
wilderness
alliance



SIERRA
CLUB
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AN AMERICAN ICON: UTAH'S RED ROCK CANYONLANDS

America's red rock canyonlands wilderness, located in southern Utah, draws pilgrims from across the country and around the world. It is the largest network of undesignated wilderness lands remaining in the lower 48 states – at its heart lies the Greater Canyonlands region surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club will host a program entitled "A Wilderness Icon: America's Red Rock Wilderness" on Monday, September 16th, 2013 at 7 pm at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. The speaker will be Clayton Daughenbaugh, conservation organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

The program includes "Wild Utah", a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This 15-minute journey through red rock splendor, narrated by Robert Redford invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands. It was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahans who wish to pass this heritage on to future generations.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and its partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition seek to gain local support for the "Citizens' Proposal" to protect wilderness areas in Utah's red rock canyonlands. Comprehensive legislation is pending in Congress and administrative decisions by the White House and the Department of Interior are ongoing.

"These are spectacular public lands owned by all Americans. As citizens we have a great opportunity to act to protect these special places," Daughenbaugh said. Daughenbaugh also serves as the volunteer Chair of the Sierra Club's National Wildlands Committee.

For more information contact: Moira Dowell at moiradowell@aol.com or Clayton Daughenbaugh at claytonhd@xmission.com – Clayton is available for interviews.