

DuPage Sierran Green Guide

Photo by Tom Richardson.



We're pleased to present the DuPage Sierran Green Guide as the winter 2013 newsletter (see page 4). The Sierran newsletter has a tradition of assigning a theme for each issue. As the new co-editors, we solicited information that highlights DuPage County's environmental and conservation groups and agencies. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive listing of all the entities that contribute to DuPage County's green areas and sustainable features. A compilation such as this was last accomplished in 2001 when the DuPage Environmental Awareness Center published Environmental Caretakers Resource Guide.

We believe a (mostly) complete listing of DuPage County's green teams offers chances for several dedicated groups and organizations to become partners, untold benefits from knowing about all of our organizations goals and objectives, and for all of the groups and organizations to better communicate purposes and actions to the community. As members of organizations committed to conservation and environmental matters, we all strive to reach and energize people to our purposes and projects. As we establish our groups' initiatives, essential outcomes and improvements in our DuPage community, we attract new audience members and take actions for essential projects and important outcomes.

As co-editors we tried to identify all the environmental and conservation groups, organizations and agencies active in DuPage County, but truth be told, we probably missed a few. We express our appreciation to the groups that responded to e-mail requests for information. We also appreciate the Chicagoland Environmental Network (CEN), a group listing of more than 200

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DuPage Sierran

Executive Chair: Connie Schmidt

Editors: Bill Weidner & Andee Chestnut
StraightForward Communications, Inc.

Writers: Connie Schmidt, Bill Weidner

Layout: Dave Blake

For activities, legislative action alerts, & outings information

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

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

environmental and natural resource organizations. CEN is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in nature or conservation-related activities in northeastern Illinois and surrounding areas. CEN organizations are involved in important work, including habitat restoration; wetland, prairie, and watershed projects; urban gardening; energy conservation; composting; wildlife conservation; and recycling.

We would like to continue to grow and expand the Sierran Green Guide for DuPage County, and we plan to provide an update to the 2013 version. Please let us know if you are aware of any environmental action, sustainability or bicyclist and pedestrian action committees or volunteers in your community so they can be added.

Thanks,
Bill Weidner & Andee Chestnut
StraightForward Communications, Inc.
Co-Editors

A FOND FAREWELL AND A HEARTFELT WELCOME!

By **Connie Schmidt**

Lonnie Morris, our chair, editor, Cool Cities Coalition coordinator and Sierra Club volunteer extraordinaire, has moved to Boston. She left a huge hole, which the rest of the board is scrambling to fill. All of us express an overwhelming sense of gratitude to Lonnie for her leadership. She has given us direction with annual goal setting, finding new volunteers, and thorough planning and execution of many activities.

She extended the visibility of the River Prairie Group with her advocacy in a wide variety of settings. She involved and energized numerous volunteers with the Cool Cities Coalition at the local level with their municipal governments. Lonnie also enlisted the leadership of volunteer and DuPage County Board member Lauren Nowak to lead the DuPage Cool County program onward.

She spearheaded moving DuPage County to be a Cool County. She coordinated the Moving Planet Day and two 350.org celebrations, which gave our membership an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to impacting climate change. She started the Green Readin' program with the Lombard Library, now in its fourth year. In addition, Lonnie attended many tabling events and civic meetings, spreading the word of environmentally sustainable practices wherever she went while increasing the visibility of the River Prairie Group.

Lonnie also edited this newsletter and enlisted authors to contribute. These authors have donated their creative and knowledgeable articles to enrich our newsletter and enlighten our readers. I want to send a sincere "thank you" to each contributing author, and I hope we will be reading more from them with new editors at the helm.

We are eternally grateful for Lonnie's impact on the Sierra Club and in particular the River Prairie Group and wish her much happiness in her new home near her beloved grandchildren.

Moving forward, we have new board members, Pete Potamianos and Jeff Gahris, and volunteer Kathy Franke acting as our recording secretary, bringing their ideas to the board.

The reins have been handed over to the team of Bill Weidner and Andee Chestnut, partners in the firm StraightForward Communications, Inc. They are recently retired communications professionals who



Pictured: Lonnie Morris. Photo by Tom Richardson

see the newsletter as a vehicle for continuing their environmental advocacy.

Bill is the former Director of the Office of Public Affairs at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. He has more than 35 years of experience working with conservation, education and recreation agencies and nonprofit groups. His connections and background offer a wide array of services to the RPG. Bill is also an alderman on the Warrenville City Council.

Andee was the Public Information Director for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District for 20 years. Prior to that, she was a special education teacher in Springfield and a legislative aide for a state representative. She serves as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration and the American Academy Foundation. She too will bring a leadership vision to our group through her vast lens of experience.

The Sierra Club is in the midst of improving the way newsletter will be electronically distributed. I hope these changes will make the DuPage Sierran look and read in a more media savvy format. As the changes get underway, Bill and Andee welcome your story suggestions and contributions inspired by a dedicated theme for each issue. Working together makes us stronger whether our issue is trails, water, energy or outings.

STUMP TALK



Winter is here. The top of the tree stump I usually stand on to make proclamations is slippery, covered with an icy, crusty snow. So for now, this ol' stump in the woods is good for me to sit upon and ponder. After all, winter is a season to rest and become introspective, and that rejuvenates my spirit. While watching the snow crystals shimmer into sparkling light while the chickadees chatter, I enjoy the solitude and peacefulness of this season. The cold, clear air and bare trees offer a chance to see terrain from a long distance, and I can lose myself in thought, develop new perspectives, become energized and inspired. Winter can be the precursor to growth, change and warm awakenings.

During these short days, I sit and think about wild animals that did not migrate. A few of them may lie coiled up in a nearby den. The deep sleepers, raccoons, black bears and skunks spent lots of time during the fall fattening up and in some cases caching food.

Native Americans know the bear symbolizes introspection, solitude, dreamtime and transformational change. In nature, bear is an animal that pulls away and hibernates in caves to get away from the outside environment. Indigenous people

believed that during bear's winter sleep, dreams and aspirations were nurtured. The quiet winter season was a chance to meditate or think about how to turn these night visions into practical realities.

In winter many of us can use a dose of the bear's medicine or teachings to make this a contemplative season that allows us time to take an inner look at our daily routine or long-range goals. This reflective time may lead us to search for, and then become inspired to fulfill, hopes and aspirations during the sequence of seasons. So this winter season I am making a plan to become more bearlike, thinking things over and nurturing my hopes and dreams to change a few of my patterns and to become inspired with each cycle of life.

This newsletter offers a list of places where you can take your inspiration and dreams and nurture them into something positive by becoming involved with change and growth. I hope you become inspired and work to improve the world we all enjoy.

May you go wander and find wonder.

Bill Weidner



Sierra Club – River Prairie Group

www.illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/

Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

The River Prairie Group is the local segment of the Sierra Club, composed of more than 2,800 members in the DuPage County, Illinois area. The group is entirely volunteer-run and relies on the work of members to make a difference. Whether you are interested in environmental activism, enjoying nature, or behind the scenes support work, we have interesting and rewarding opportunities for you.

Contact:

(630) 985-1185 or rpgsierra@comcast.net

LOCAL ENTITIES

Carol Stream, Village of

www.carolstream.org

The Village adopted a sustainability program in 2000 whose objective was to "green" municipal operations. Significant accomplishments have been made that include re-lamping all facilities, installing LED street lights, recycling of asphalt and concrete in capital projects, greening fleet operations, increasing efficiencies of sanitary treatment operations as part of ARRA stimulus program, establishing initiatives to reduce road salt/chloride, reforesting public parkways, expanding residential recycling, recycling electronic waste, constructing bike and pedestrian pathways, establishing a prescription medication (Rx) recycling program and the development and publishing of an environmental web portal.

Contact:

Christopher Oakley,
Asst. to the Village Manager
(630) 871-6250 or coakley@carolstream.org

Downers Grove Park District REAP (Restore, Educate and Preserve)

www.dgparks.org

The REAP volunteer group works to restore the Downers Grove Park District's natural areas, including Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie. Projects at both sites include the removal of nonnative vegetation, collection and sowing of native seed, and trail maintenance and restoration. Volunteers assist with education programming at Lyman Woods, perform trail inspections and monitor bird, butterfly, frog and other species.

Contact:

Shannon Forsythe, Manager of Natural Resources & Interpretive Services
(630) 963-9388 or sforsythe@dgparks.org

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

www.pdha.org

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove. The group has been instrumental in the preservation and protection of Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie, which continue as ongoing projects. The alliance is now committed to the preservation of cultural aspects of Downers Grove, including its rich architectural heritage. They work to accomplish the mission through education as well as community outreach.

Contact:
(630) 964-0245 or GLGoodman@earthlink.net

Downers Grove Organic Gardeners

www.dgorganicgardeners.blogspot.com

This group is committed to raising the awareness of organic gardening in the community and educating members about the benefits and methods of organic gardening and other environmentally-sound practices.

Contact:
dgorganicgardeners@gmail.com

Glen Ellyn Park District

www.gepark.org

The Glen Ellyn Park District Environmental Committee developed an environmental policy with green initiatives listed on the website under general information. The committee's mission is to protect and enhance the community's environment and natural resources through responsible planning, programming and allocation of all resources to motivate the public through the Park District's example.

Contact:
Kathleen Esposito, Superintendent of Recreation
(630) 942-7261 or kesposito@gepark.org

Itasca - Spring Brook Nature Center*

www.itasca.com

The Spring Brook Nature Center was established in 1980 by the Village of Itasca, in cooperation with the Itasca School District and Itasca Park District. More than two miles of trails provide hiking opportunities through a marsh, meadow, woodland and arboretum. In keeping with the center's mission, work is ongoing to recreate a native prairie on the grounds, complete with indigenous grasses and flowering plants.

The nature center offers a variety of programs for local schools, scouts and families. Programs teach topics ranging from native plants and animals to environmental restoration. The center's Raptor Program provides interpretation and information on birds of prey such as hawks, owls and falcons.

Contact:
(630) 773-5572 or www.itasca.com

***Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.**

Lombard, Village of

www.villageoflombard.org

The Village of Lombard's Environmental Concerns Committee suggests and monitors environmental programs, contracts and regulations to provide direction to staff and recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

The committee developed the Sustainability Framework to comprehensively identify programs, accomplishments and goals in the areas of air, greenhouse gases, water, transportation, land use, waste diversion and energy use. The Village engages residents, businesses and organizations to make continual progress in the effort to become a sustainable community.

There is a twice-a-year effort to remove buckthorn from the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail.

Contact:
David P. Gorman, Asst. Director of Public Works
(630) 620-5765 or gormand@villageoflombard.org

Naperville for Clean Energy and Conservation

www.ncec.us

Naperville for Clean Energy and Conservation is an organization whose members are prioritizing "Go Green" efforts in the community by helping businesses and residents save time and money while they reduce their impact on the environment.

The group consists of Naperville volunteers who are business owners, professionals, residents, entrepreneurs and other environmental stewards. Meetings are open to the public, and there is no fee to be a member. NCEC issues a quarterly newsletter, hosts events and gives presentations at no cost.

Contact:

Sameera Luthman
sluthman@napervilleparks.org

Oakbrook Terrace Park District - Lake View Nature Center*

www.obtpd.org/lvnc

The Lake View Nature Center (LVNC) is a 1,600-square-foot nature center/museum managed by the Oakbrook Terrace Park District. The nature center's programs and services are designed to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate. They include activities and crafts that teach about the history of land, wetland and prairie restoration, and plant and animal life. Through a partnership with Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association, LVNC provides nature programming and outdoor recreational services for special populations. The nature center also partners with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to loan free fishing poles for use in its 2.5-acre lake.

Contact:

(630) 941-8747 or www.obtpd.org/lvnc

***Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.**

Warrenville Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)

www.warrenville.il.us

In 2007, Warrenville's Natural Areas Commission was reestablished into the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). The EAC acts as a resource and advocate to the Warrenville City Council and community at large to help develop educational and informational programs and materials that promote environmental awareness and behavior. The group also promotes and coordinates the City's beautification efforts and conducts an annual Arbor Day activity. The commission's seven members are volunteers and are dedicated to making Warrenville a more beautiful place to live, and a safer City.

Contact:

Dawna Page, Executive Assistant, City of Warrenville
(630) 393-9427 or dpage@warrenville.il.us

Warrenville Bicyclist & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (WBPAC)

www.warrenville.il.us

The Warrenville Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the bicycling and walking experience in Warrenville. The five-member commission serves as an advisory board to the Warrenville City Council to support, encourage and promote safe bicycling and walking throughout the City through capital improvements, amenities, events and programs. The WBPAC mission is to work with the local agencies, businesses owners and citizens of Warrenville to identify needs, desires and opportunities as well as to coordinate efforts to provide for bicyclist and pedestrian amenities.

The commission's efforts in achieving its goals are dependent largely on ascertaining the needs of the community. With citizen assistance, the commission strives to keep the City of Warrenville an attractive destination for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Contact:

Lee Spencer, Planner/GIS Technician,
City of Warrenville
(630) 393-9050 or lspencer@warrenville.il.us

Warrenville in Bloom (WIB)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Warrenville-in-Bloom/166109123423370>

Warrenville in Bloom is a nonprofit group of volunteers dedicated to the beautification and enhancement of the City of Warrenville. The group's local focus is to beautify the community while educating residents and businesses to be more conscious of surrounding ecology, economy and social needs. Much effort revolves around green initiatives and the environment, with a goal of becoming the "greenest little city in the Midwest." This effort unifies the community and grows pride and love for the City of Warrenville where citizens work and live. WIB believes that together they can do more. The Warrenville in Bloom team energizes volunteers to participate in City beautification and green initiatives. Their mission is to enhance Warrenville through grassroots efforts using America in Bloom national criteria.

Contact:

Dorothy Deer
(630) 293-4920 or warrenvilleinbloom@gmail.com

Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation

www.wayneareaconservancyfoundation.org

The Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation (WACF) is dedicated to the conservation, preservation and maintenance of Wayne area historic facilities and equestrian trails and support of equestrian education at all levels.

The group maintains stewardship agreements with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) for Pratt's Wayne Woods and Dunham forest preserves and has a stewardship agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) for the former "Swanson" farm. "Country Care" Saturdays occur once a month for maintenance of equestrian trails throughout the Village of Wayne and FPDDC and FPDKC, maintaining forest preserve prairies, maintaining parks including Joan Hamill Field, Barbara Dunham Dole Park, Oaklawn Farm and other barns and outbuildings on the National Historic Register. The foundation supports the work of

Pictured: A Winter Jay. Photo by Tom Richardson



local conservation organizations including FPDDC, FPDKC, The Conservation Foundation, the Trail Riders of DuPage and the Village of Wayne.

Contact:

Kathie Houdek Connolly, Community Liaison
(630) 661-7383 or kconhen@sbcglobal.net

West Chicago Environmental Commission

<http://www.westchicago.org/Government/BoardsAndCommissions/index.html>

The West Chicago Environmental Commission researches, discusses and recommends to the City Council various environmental programs and policies that facilitate the protection and improvement of the environment, efficient management of natural resources, promotion of a sustainable community, and enhancement of the City's aesthetic appearance.

Contact:

Tim Wilcox, Street Superintendent, City Liaison to the Environmental Commission
(630) 293-2255 or twilcox@westchicago.org

West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group

<http://home.comcast.net/~wcpsg/index.html>

The West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group is a volunteer organization formed to aid in the management and preservation of the West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve. The group is part of The Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Network and works as a support group in cooperation with the FPDDC, which owns and is responsible for the overall management of the prairie. It is an affiliate of The Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit land and watershed protection organization.

Volunteers provide a significant part of the natural areas management. They remove invading woody growth, eliminate alien weeds, collect seeds of native grasses and forbs and sow collected seeds in recently restored areas and adjacent old-field areas. The Forest Preserve District does the necessary prescribed burning and other large-scale natural area management. Knowledgeable leaders conduct field trips and birding trips on the prairie. Individuals with the appropriate skills monitor and survey birds and flora in specific habitat areas.

Contact:
info@wcpsg.org

Wheaton, City of

www.wheaton.il.us

The Environmental Improvement Commission advises the Wheaton City Council on environment-related subject matters and coordinates a variety of events each year, including a Recycling Extravaganza, Prairie Path Clean-Up, Native Plant Sale and Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony.

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Subcommittee of the Environmental Improvement Commission

The Bicycle Advisory Committee is a group of volunteers established to advise on the implementation of the Wheaton Bicycle Plan, which aims to improve the environment by reducing vehicle traffic. The committee promotes safe bicycling in Wheaton, bicycling events, safety education and bike-friendly facilities. The committee also encourages residents

Photo by Tom Richardson.



and visitors to use the improved bicycling network developed by and for the City of Wheaton.

Contact:
Sharon Barrett-Hagen, City Clerk
(630) 260-2012 or sbarrett-hagen@wheaton.il.us

Wheaton Park District

www.wheatonparkdistrict.com

The District owns more than 800 acres of land, and is currently restoring more than 100 acres of wetlands, prairies and oak woodlands. Environmental education and outdoor adventure programs are provided to more than 17,000 participants annually.

Contact:
(630) 665-4710 or www.wheatonparkdistrict.com

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.

Wheaton Park District - Cosley Zoo*

www.cosleyzoo.org

The mission of the Cosley Zoo is to promote understanding of the relationship among humans, animals and the environment through recreation, education and wildlife conservation.

Cosley Zoo is a small zoo on five acres that exhibits native Illinois wildlife and domestic farm animals. Receiving approximately 100,000 visitors annually, Cosley Zoo works to educate people about animals that impact their lives, and has educational programs for all ages. Cosley Zoo, a facility of the Wheaton Park District, is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Contact:
(630) 665-5534 or cosleyzoo@wheatonparks.org

Wheaton Park District - Lincoln Marsh Natural Area*

www.lincolmarsh.org

The Lincoln Marsh Natural Area is an invaluable resource for enhancing appreciation and involvement in the natural world. The marsh is highly regarded for its recreation and educational programs offered to people of all ages.

One hundred forty-six acres offer respite from the hustle and bustle of traffic and commerce. The natural integrity of the area is impressive despite its urban setting. Prairies, woodlands and savannas surround open water marsh areas that dot the landscape.

Contact:
(630) 871-2810 or www.lincolmarsh.org

***Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network;
information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.**

COUNTY OR REGIONAL ENTITIES

DuPage County Waste, Recycling and Green Initiatives

www.dupageco.org/sustainability/

The aim of the DuPage County Waste, Recycling and Green Initiatives website is to inform the public about environmental issues impacting their health, well-being and safety and provide recycling opportunities to both residents and businesses. There is a tremendous amount of information in this section for identifying recycling and disposal locations and learning about green buildings, water conservation and energy efficiency.

Additionally, the County is a recognized leader in addressing environmental concerns. The 2011 Environmental Progress Report lists many accomplishments and ongoing programs.

Contact:
(630) 407-6700 or recycle@dupageco.org

DuPage County Bikeways and Trails

www.dupageco.org/bikeways/

This DuPage County Bikeways and Trails website provides information on all bicycle and pedestrian activities undertaken by the DuPage County Division of Transportation. This includes 92 miles of trails operated and maintained by DuPage County such as the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail.

Contact:
**(630) 407-6900 or
TrailPathCoordinator@dupageco.org**



The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

www.dupageforest.org

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, established in 1915, is a governmental agency headquartered in Wheaton. Its mission is to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of the citizens of DuPage County.

With more than 25,000 acres containing 31 lakes, 145 miles of trails and 1,450 picnic tables, DuPage County's forest preserves offer outdoor enthusiasts opportunities to enjoy their favorite open-air activities, such as archery, birding, boating, camping, fishing, geocaching, golfing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, winter sledding and tubing, horseback riding, bicycling or hiking.

Education facilities, nature centers and historical and cultural places provide more developed facets for forest preserve visitors. These locations offer programs and events to help people learn about the cultural and natural heritage of DuPage County. The award-winning sites include Danada Equestrian Center, Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, Graue Mill, Kline Creek Farm, Mayslake Peabody Estate and Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

The District continues to acquire parcels of valuable open spaces throughout the county to keep pace with the continuous sprawl of the urban landscape. Properties are evaluated based on their fair-market value and are considered based on the land's natural condition, resident flora and fauna, and other features such as connectivity to greenways, river ways and existing preserves. The District focuses on managing the land through an innovative program to restore and preserve the county's ecosystems, in conjunction with ongoing efforts in reforestation and prairie restoration. The controlled use of fire and other natural-resource management methods continue to be used as tools in clearing natural areas of aggressive nonnative plants and encouraging the growth of native plant species.

Contact:
(630) 933-7200 or www.dupageforest.org

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

www.dupageforest.org

Established in 2010, the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is the District's fundraising arm and accepts financial donations on behalf of all its facilities, programs and events. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, the Friends seeks to advance the District's preservation and restoration goals while also furthering its educational and recreational programs and capital needs.

The Friends is guided by an independent volunteer board of directors that represents the entire DuPage County area. The Friends accepts gifts made on behalf of any District facility, event or program. Memberships over \$100 will receive a plush owl and VIP passes to select Forest Preserve District events.

Contact:
(630) 871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center

www.dupageforest.org

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center is part of Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook. The center provides a look at DuPage County's natural environments and changes that have occurred over time to create them. Visitors can explore the world of Salt Creek and its inhabitants and learn how to identify birds and animal tracks. They can also get up close and personal with the 13,000-year-old skeleton of a woolly mammoth or use microscopes and spotting scopes to examine creatures that call DuPage County home. Visitors can also find answers to nature-related questions from the center's naturalists, who enjoy talking about native plants and animals.

Scheduled programs for individuals, families and scout groups focus on natural resources and feature activities from tapping maple trees and making sweet syrup to identifying spring wildflowers and tracking resident and migrant wildlife. The center offers schoolchildren several field trip and outreach programs that meet state curriculum standards. In

In addition, the center offers professional development programs with CPDU credits for educators.

The center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except on select holidays. The surrounding Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve is open one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset every day.

Contact:
(630) 850-8110, or
fullersburgwoods@dupageforest.org

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - Willowbrook Wildlife Center*

www.willowbrookwildlife.org

The goal of Willowbrook Wildlife Center is to provide rehabilitation to native and passing migrant wildlife of DuPage County and education on the biological and ecosystems current and native to this area. These goals are achieved through rehabilitation facilities and educational staff.

Contact:
(630) 942-6200 or willowbrook@dupageforest.com

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.

DuPage Environmental Commission

www.dupageco.org/EDP/Waste_Recycling_and_Energy/1532/

The DuPage Environmental Commission was created in 1992 and recommissioned in 2002 by the DuPage County Board to serve as an advisory panel on environmental issues. The County's Environmental Policy was developed by the commission and approved by the DuPage County Board. The document serves as guidance for daily operations, as well as planning for the future.

Green Initiatives - Environmental Education

DuPage County has contracted with SCARCE to provide professional teacher training and community outreach educational services through workshops, activities, newsletters and resources covering a wide variety of environmental topics.

For additional health-related resources visit the

Healthy Schools Campaign <http://www.dupage-health.org/Forward/news>

For additional green resources for your school visit SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education).

Contact:
(630) 545-9710 or ecoed@sbcglobal.net

DuPage Green Government Council

https://www.dupageco.org/GreenGov-Council/

The Green Government Council is a special advisory group that assists the County by identifying ways to effectively conserve natural resources, reduce regional environmental impacts, develop sustainability initiatives and promote economic opportunities for businesses, community organizations and residents. Its first assignment will be to assist the County with the implementation of the Cool Counties Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The council is made up of experts from environmental groups, utilities and nonprofit organizations.

Contact:
(630) 407-6700

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

www.drscw.org

The East & West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek are located in Northeastern Illinois, including portions of Cook, DuPage and Will counties, and they encompass an area of approximately 350 square miles of urbanized watershed. The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) formed in 2005 in response to concerns about Total Maximum Daily Loads being set for the East & West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. The group is made up of local communities, publicly-owned treatment works and private environmental organizations. The DRSCW is committed to producing comprehensive data sets for local watersheds in order to determine and resolve priority stressors to local aquatic systems. The organization seeks to implement targeted

watershed activities that resolve priority waterway problems efficiently and cost-effectively.

Contact:

Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation
(630) 768 7427 or
smccracken@theconservationfoundation.org

FORWARD (Fighting Obesity Reaching healthy Weight Among Residents of DuPage)

www.forwarddupage.org

FORWARD is a community-based coalition comprised of community and school leaders, clergy, health care providers, business and civic leaders and others working together to reverse the obesity trend. FORWARD strives to make policy, systems and environmental changes so all children and families in DuPage County can achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. FORWARD invites anyone working toward a similar goal to join in this effort.

Contact:

Krystal Kleinschmidt
(630) 221-7037 or forward@dupagehealth.org

Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District*

www.kanedupageswcd.org

The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District provides technical information to individuals and groups on methods of soil and water conservation and provides natural resource inventory information on properties slated for zoning changes. It is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by District landowners and residents. Funding is provided in part by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Contact:

(630) 584-7961 ext 3 or www.kanedupageswcd.org

ORGANIZATIONS

Chicago Region Interpreters*

www.roscoecompany.com/cricket

CRICKET presents educational, entertaining and quality programs! Since 1989, CRICKET has been providing programs to delight and inspire people of all ages with LIVE animals, storytelling, music, magic and audience participation.

CRICKET programs are great for science curriculums. CRICKET offers nine different programs for children. Programs are presented by Christine Buik and Jim Walser throughout northern Illinois and surrounding regions.

Contact:

(630) 968-3209 or cricketshows1@gmail.com

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.

Chicago Wilderness*

www.chicagowilderness.org

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance of more than 250 organizations working together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

We connect people and nature. Our four key initiatives – to restore the health of local nature, to implement the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision, to combat climate change, and to leave no child inside – reflect our commitment to using science and emerging knowledge, as well as a collaborative approach to conservation, to benefit all the region's residents.

Contact:

Catherine Game, Alliance Relations Coordinator
(312) 580-2135 or catherine.game@chicagowilderness.org

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.

The Conservation Foundation*

www.theconservationfoundation.org

Governed by a Board of Trustees, this is a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving natural areas, restoring water quality and promoting positive environmental activities in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties.

Contact:
(630) 428-4500 or info@theconservationfoundation.org

DuPage Birding Club*

www.dupagebirding.org

Founded in 1985, the DuPage Birding Club is nationally known as one of the largest and most active birding groups in Illinois. Its mission is to promote birding among its more than 200 members and the general public through education and field experiences that take advantage of the various habitats in DuPage County, the greater Chicago area and other regional hotspots.

Contact:
www.dupagebirding.org

EcoMyths Alliance

www.ecomythsalliance.org

"At EcoMyths, we set the record straight. To do this, we call upon an all-star alliance of experts from some of the most respected nature institutions around to provide you just the facts. Naturally. So you can make the best green decision for you, your family and nature. For generations to come."

Contact:
Daisy Simmons, Editor (editorial & communications)
Kate Sackman, President (partnerships)
(312) 798-9303 or dsimmons@ecomythsalliance.org,
ksackman@ecomythsalliance.org

Green Earth Institute*

www.GreenEarthInstitute.org

Green Earth Institute is a nonprofit educational organization. On its 60-acre farm located on the south side of Naperville, they grow more than 40 different crops of nutritious organic vegetables; these are available through the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. During summer they offer children's environmental education programs focus on gardening and nature awareness, and for adults, at the annual Green Earth Fair on the first Sunday in May, they provide information about nutrition and environmentally-sustainable practices for home, yard and garden. In several school districts they are working with parents, teachers, administrators and students to improve nutrition in the schools.

Contact:
(630) 664-5681 or www.GreenEarthInstitute.org

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.

SCARCE*

www.scarcecoed.org

SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education) provides the community with environmental education and opportunities to preserve the environment. Programs include teacher and student workshops; environmental presentations and activities for scouts and other community groups; and Earth Flag, Ecology Flag & Green DuPage Patch to become certified as a friend of the environment. Ripples and the Green Bulletin provide ongoing news of environmental events and initiatives. Book Rescue, Tools for Schools, Super Crayons, Cell Phone Rescue, and Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling provide ongoing reuse and recycling programs.

Contact:
(630) 545-9710 or ecoed@sbcglobal.net

*Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.



Trail Riders of DuPage

www.trod.us

The Trail Riders of DuPage (TROD) is an advocacy organization established more than 20 years ago by horseback riders who saw that urban sprawl could encroach on their use of area trails. They work with governmental agencies to preserve the trail riders' rights and to maintain a philosophy of multi-use trails. Their motto is to "Share the Trails" which is evident through coordination with other user groups.

There are a variety of activities the Board of Directors presents for the membership. They communicate to members in their monthly newsletter, "The Round-Up." The organization hosts monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month with a guest speaker or presentation. Many members don't even have a horse but find this group a great way to gather information and network with others who love this sport.

The group participates in several parades annually across the county. Parades show the public that horses are safe citizens in the ever-growing urbanized suburbs. Board members coordinate weekend rides that are advertised in the newsletter or on their web site. The group also participates in work projects associated with trails, such as the annual Illinois Prairie Path clean-up. TROD members are usually present at open house activities at either Danada or St. James Farm forest preserves.

A major service project TROD offers is the Equine Rescue Techniques course (ERT). For the past 16

years, this course has been presented to professionals such as firefighters and police officers who are first-responders. These emergency professionals are trained in how to deal with a horse in an emergency situation.

Contact:
Connie Schmidt
(630) 393-6276 or www.trod.us

Wild Ones – Greater DuPage Chapter

www.wildones.org

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally-sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones seeks to educate its members and the community about the benefits of using local native plant species in natural landscaping. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Contact:
(630) 964-0448 or info@wildones.org

FACILITIES

Argonne National Laboratory*

www.anl.gov

Argonne has four major mission areas, each fulfilling important governmental and Department of Energy (DOE) responsibilities, as well as providing important benefits to society at large. They are: conducting basic scientific research to further our understanding of the world we live in; operating national scientific facilities to help advance America's scientific leadership; enhancing the nation's energy resources to ensure America's energy future; and developing better ways to manage environmental problems.

The Division of Educational Programs (DEP) is Argonne's link to the educational community. Each year, DEP serves thousands of students and faculty members from around the nation, operating the largest set of educational programs of any DOE Science laboratory. For students and faculty members at all educational levels, Argonne has a program that will engage you in a scientific learning experience.

Contact:
(630) 252-3380 or www.anl.org

***Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network;
information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.**

Fermilab

www.fnal.gov

Fermilab is a national laboratory for particle physics research. Thousands of scientists from universities and laboratories around the world collaborate on high-energy physics experiments, the science of matter, space and time. Research at the laboratory has led to significant and numerous scientific discoveries and technological advances.

The Fermilab 6,800-acre site offers restored and natural areas for environmental studies and nature recreation. Visitors, volunteers and employees use this living laboratory to better understand ecosystem dynamics including, prairie, wildlife, ecological land

management and conservation of natural areas. Visitors are welcome to roam the public areas and interpretative nature trails to view the herd of buffalo, fish in ponds (with a valid Illinois fishing license) and take photographs. The site contains ecosystems representative of the Midwest: tallgrass prairies, oak savannas, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and agricultural fields. Habitat restoration encourages the growth of native flowers and trees in these areas. A multitude of wildlife lives onsite or uses the lab as a migratory way station. Wildlife includes approximately 282 species of birds, 56 species of butterflies, 10 species of frogs and endangered Blanding's turtles.

Fermilab makes efforts to integrate environmental consideration in everything they do. Throughout their history they have set standards and goals to become more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. It has accomplished this by preserving cultural resources and by protecting species, natural habitats and ecologically-sensitive areas. In addition, the facility has minimized emissions and effluents by employing pollution prevention and waste reduction practices. The lab has a reputation for conservation, wise use of resources and establishing a culture of sustainability.

The public areas are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November to March, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. the rest of the year.

Contact:
(630) 840-3351 or www.fnal.gov

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit Corporation (IPPC)

www.IPP.org

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation advocates for the path and all users. The IPP volunteers focus on recreation, prairie restoration, land preservation and beautification, conservation of natural resources and ecosystems, preservation and interpretation of historic sites, and the connection of IPP to other trails to form a regional network of greenways. The IPPC provides trail amenities that include benches, water fountains/pumps, portable toilets, trash cans and scenic natural area restorations.

Contact:
IPP President
(630) 752-0120 or president@ipp.org

Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum*

www.ben.edu/museum/

The Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum commits itself to continue and to enhance the vision of the Reverends Hilary and Edmund Jurica, O.S.B., of educating students by engaging the various senses, especially



the visual, auditory and tactile, through the discipline of the life sciences. The museum is a natural history collection of vertebrate and invertebrate animals exhibited in a nature scene or diorama.

The museum hosts more than 5,000 visitors each year and introduces many children to a museum for the first time. Featured exhibits include an African savanna and Northern Illinois as it looked 200 years ago.

Contact:

(630) 829-6546 or www.ben.edu/museum/

***Member of Chicagoland Environmental Network; information from www.chicagoenvironment.org.**

The Morton Arboretum

www.mortonarb.org

The Morton Arboretum's mission is encouraging the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier and more beautiful world. Volunteer opportunities at the Arboretum include horticulture, monitoring, natural areas, research, special events, visitor services, office assistance and more.

Contact:

Kristin Sabatino

(630) 719-2443 or volunteer@mortonarb.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Metea Valley High School Eco Club

www.ipisd.org

This year's activities are hosting the 4th annual electronics recycling collection; adopting and cleaning up a section of the Illinois Prairie Path near the school; hosting events to encourage recycling in the school cafeteria, trading a recyclable bottle or can for a piece of candy; and completing a feasibility study on replacing paper towels with air dryers in washrooms.

Contact:

Jeff Schmela, Science Teacher & Club Sponsor

jeff_schmela@ipisd.org

Waubonsie Valley High School

www.ipisd.org

For the last ten years, Waubonsee Valley High School's AP Environmental Science students have had a "capstone" experience by restoring and reconstructing tallgrass prairie on or near the school grounds. There are now three distinct areas: A large, roughly two-acre tallgrass restoration directly to the north of school; a roughly 150-yard buffer strip along Waubonsie lake directly to the west of school; and a small restoration on the school grounds. The areas serve as research sites for students in AP Environmental Science and other science classes. There are more than 100 species of native grasses and forbs in the three areas. Students have opportunities to collect seeds and watch controlled burns on the sites.

Currently, the Fox Valley Park District works closely with teachers to provide the students with plants and materials for their experience. In the past, plants and seeds also came from donations from the FPDDC,



Forest Preserve District of Kendall County, Fermilab, and an Indian Prairie Education Foundation grant. Without support from these entities the restoration work would not have been nearly as successful.

Contact:
Carl Armstrong, Science Teacher
(218) 831-0776 or carl_armstrong@ipsd.org

Elmhurst College

www.elmhurst.edu

Elmhurst College has a far-reaching Sustainability Plan, unique initiatives in its buildings and grounds operations and opportunities for its students to contribute their time and energy to "living green at the College."

The College executes its Sustainability Plan through a committee with student, faculty and staff participation. The Elmhurst College Sustainability Committee has led campus efforts to improve awareness, identify and obtain implementation of new policies and practices, and gain recognition of the College's efforts. During the summer of 2011, Elmhurst College joined the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact and has been active in local and regional committees and programs; chief among them are cooperative recycling programs with the City of Elmhurst.

The students are leaders in the College's sustainability program. The Greenjays have been active since 2009 and lead efforts at education and promotion of sustainability. The Living Green Team, started in 2011, educates students about composting and recycling programs in the College cafeteria and the Bluejays' Roost; its role is expanding to include recycling efforts in the residence halls. Each year, The Green Cup is awarded to the residence

hall occupants who show the greatest reduction in water and electricity usage and waste during the school year.

The campus is a recognized arboretum, and the College operates an organic three sisters garden during the growing season.

Contact:
Ken Johnson
(630) 617-3044 or johnsonk@elmhurst.edu

North Central College

www.northcentralcollege.edu

As a teaching institution, the college has a special responsibility to introduce, support and encourage core sustainability values and actions into all aspects of campus life. The campus community is actively making smart choices to limit impact on environmental systems.

This commitment spans all aspects of the campus, integrating operations and maintenance to curricular and cocurricular sustainability initiatives. Such successful projects include the LEED Silver-Certified Res/Rec Center, Community Garden, Kaufman Dining Hall Composting project, Cardinal Red Bike Program, the annual No Waste Picnic, many recycling initiatives, and so much more. Most notably, the College was included in "The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges," acknowledging North Central as one of the most environmentally-responsible colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

Contact:
Brittany Graham, Sustainability Coordinator
(630) 637-5623 or bdgraham@noctrl.edu

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

Jan 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Beginner Cross-Country Ski Clinic Berrien Springs, MI

Do you want to learn how 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. Trip leaders are Donna & Steve Turner and Mike Davis. To sign up, call Mike at (815) 331-3042 beginning December 15 to reserve your spot.

Jan 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Stevens Point 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 a four-hour drive 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 Jan 10 and 11, which will get you ready for this trip. The \$135 cost is for 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, call the leaders, Donna and Steve Turner, at (630) 782-5865 or e-mail sdturner@gmail.com

Jan 31-Feb 2 (Fri-Sun) Wolf Tracking in Northern Wisconsin Tomahawk, WI

Come out for a winter weekend of wolf tracking activities in Northern Wisconsin. This unique winter outing will be held at Treehaven, an outdoor education center run by the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. Activities will include an orientation on wolf behavior, tracking, outdoor winter survival skills, fort building and a wolf howl on Saturday night. Snowshoes and cross-country skis will be used for exploring this beautiful site. Approximate donation of \$180 covers two nights lodging, three meals, all necessary equipment and administrative fees. Limit 14. Leader is Mark Ginger. To sign up, contact Mark at bubbleman@outlook.com. Assistant Leader needed.

Feb 1 (Sat) Eagles and Frozen Waterfalls Oglesby, IL

Come join us for a fun day viewing eagles at the Waterway and then hiking to frozen waterfalls. Then enjoy a leisurely hike and learn about ice colors and minerals of Starved Rock. Must wear Yaktraks for hiking safety. Limit: 20. Please contact leader Jan Bradford (847) 455-2947 after 7PM or jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net. Assisting leader is Anatoly Libgaber.

Feb 7-10 (Fri-Mon) Cross-Country Ski Outing in Michigan's UP

Enjoy a three-day cross-country ski trip in the great snow country of the Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Stay in fully-equipped deluxe cabins on the shore of a (frozen) lake near the town of Watersmeet, MI. Three excellent areas with groomed trails will be skied (classical skiing). Trip fee of approximately \$150 includes

three nights lodging, two home-cooked dinners, and Sierra Club fees. (S.C. members get \$5 discount.) \$75 deposit is due Jan 6th. Limit 18. Leader is Mike Davis. Assistant leaders are Marlena Bertolozzi and Sharon Koontz. Calls will be taken beginning December 14 by Mike at (815) 331-3042.

Feb 22-23 (Sat-Sun) Baraboo Cross-Country Ski Outing Baraboo, WI

Join this weekend ski trip to the Madison & Baraboo, WI area. There are several excellent ski areas in the area for us to explore with the possibility of arriving a day earlier and/or staying a day later. This outing may move to another location based on conditions, most likely in the Cadillac, MI area. To register, call the leaders, Donna and Steve Turner, at (630) 782-5865 or e-mail sdturner@gmail.com

For up-to-date information, visit the IL Chapter wide outings at: illinois.sierraclub.org/outings and the River Prairie Group Activity Calendar at: illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg/calendar

Other Programs

Jan 13 (Mon) – A Chat with Lisa Medearis

Join the River Prairie Group for a chat with Lisa Medearis, the Illinois Chapter's new Clean Energy Advocate. Lisa will discuss her work on Illinois' Renewable Portfolio Standard, green power purchasing, and energy efficiency. Come learn more and collaborate with the Illinois Chapter on our vision for clean energy work in the New Year! Contact: Lisa Medearis at (312) 251-1680 x196

Feb 3 (Mon), 7 PM - Wonders of the Galapagos Islands

Rick Stuckey will give a presentation on his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands. He will share amazing pictures of Galapagos wildlife, including birds, iguanas and tortoises, as well as underwater pictures of sea lions, marine iguanas, turtles, reef sharks, Galapagos penguins and loads of fish. The presentation will be held at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. For information, contact Moira Dowell at (630) 469-1606.

The Green Readin' Book Group

Connie Schmidt

This year, Sierra Club is offering The Green Readin' Book Group at the Lombard and Warrenville public libraries. Sign up at the libraries, and you will receive a flyer with discussion questions to guide you as you read.

The Lombard Library's discussion is January 19th at 2:00 p.m.

The Warrenville Library's discussion will be March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

If you are unable to find a copy of this year's discussion book, *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion* by Elizabeth Cline, at your local library, check out The Book Store, 475 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn. The Book Store is a marvelous independent local business, certainly worth the trip, and they offer a 10% discount. Because they do not stock heavily, call (630) 469-2891 to have a book reserved.

The Green Readin' Book Group has a different format this year. The one book selected will fascinate you and will bring in local connections! In her book, Cline evaluates the true cost of low-priced clothing on our world socially, economically and environmentally. Through her journey toward being a conscientious shopper, she visits a myriad of sources for clothing. Visiting garment factories, resale shops and designer boutiques, she seeks sustainable merchandise. Her message that "cheap chic" is doing damage to our planet, and society is crying for social change. Local merchant Ten Thousand Villages will join us with their message as well.

Elizabeth L. Cline is a New York-based writer, editor and author. She holds a degree in Political Philosophy from Syracuse University. She has written for numerous publications including *New York Magazine*, *The New Republic* and the *Village Voice*. She is currently editor for amctv.com. *Overdressed* is her first book. To read more on this subject, check out her blog found at Overdressedthebook.com.