



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran Autumn 2020
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Jeff and his wife Bonnie enjoy Lincoln Marsh in Wheaton

Jeff's Jots

Clearly, it has been a difficult year for many, so I hope this finds you well and healthy. As for the River Prairie Group, we have not had in-person meetings or outings activities but are working on-line instead. On Zoom we had a great political action meeting this September, and an amazing climate change discussion with State Representative Terra Costa Howard and Congressman Sean Casten.

As Casten pointed out, no matter what we do, it is inadequate for reversing climate change, but we are still hoping this is the year for the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). We need it more than ever to wean Illinois off fossil fuels and to rejuvenate our economy in a just manner. See our update in the article in this issue.

We do not have group outings currently but see our suggested outing experience in the article below. We have seen how easy it is for the social order to become chafed and raw. We all need healing individually and collectively, but even science is now telling us what we already knew. Time spent in nature is healthy and calming, allowing us time to reflect and refocus on the work we need to do. This work includes CEJA and ensuring that our neighbors in need, especially vulnerable black and brown communities, receive our attention.

You may be pleased to learn that we have updated our water monitoring report that informs local decision makers about the quality of our local streams. It is now posted on our [web site](#). We are also hopeful that the Salt Creek Restoration project may finally be approved by the DuPage Forest Preserve District in October. See the update in the story below and contact your Forest Preserve District Commissioner.

A final note: elections matter! See election information below!



Elections matter!

We urge you to support our endorsed political candidates. See our [calendar](#) for upcoming opportunities to volunteer. Also, look for your issue of the **2020 Prairie State Update** from the Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter for a list of endorsed candidates.

You will also find ballots to vote for Chapter and RPG ExCom volunteer positions, or you may go to [Excom Vote](#) to vote on line.



Update on the Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods

By Deanna Doohaluk

Following a number of virtual public open houses to solicit public comments, the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) will be taking its **Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods** to the FPDDC Board of Commissioners, the site's owner. The DRSCW will be asking to be allowed to move forward with a detailed design for the project. A vote may occur as early as the FPDDC's October 6, 2020, Board Meeting. A central part of the master plan is to replace the site's 1933 dam with a rock riffle, allowing safe passage for paddlers and fish. For these fish species it would be the first time they got to travel the 17 miles upstream of the dam in 90 years. **More...**



CEJA Marches Forward

Working to pass in Veto Session: The Clean Energy Jobs Act

By Connie Schmidt

Across the state, the volunteer lobby team members of Sierra Club are scheduling meetings this fall with IL state legislators to encourage the vote for CEJA during the veto session in November. There are four reasons why this is an urgent need. **More...**



We had a great time on September 24 with DuPage folks who are passionate about passing the Clean Energy Jobs Act! We are here to sound the message loud and clear that #CEJACantWait. Sign up to take action at bit.ly/dupagecejaaction



DMP Hosts First County-Wide BioBlitz

By Lonnie Morris

“Milkweed for monarchs” has become the rallying cry for monarchs’ recovery but having enough energy for completing the autumn migration to Mexico is also critical to their survival. Identifying where monarchs are refueling during migration is an important part of a strategy for their preservation, and a bioblitz is a good way to begin answering that question.

DuPage Monarch Project participated in the bioblitz Parks for Pollinators to look for answers to that question... **More...**



Sugar maple
(Acer sac.)

Seeking Out Fabulous Fall Colors

By Ed Max
RPG Outings leader

Good luck with that? Perhaps. With this ongoing drought, fall colors may disappoint a tad in most areas. But maybe not all.

The one family of trees that rarely disappoint are the maples, sugar maples in particular. Though not found throughout our area, you'll know when you see a sugar maple stand in mid-October, with their fiery red, orange, and yellow foliage.

And such a place can be found off Route 47 near Elburn: Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve.

This unusual geological formation is smothered in Sugar maple, which in itself is unusual. (This species is fond of the rocky gravel and alkaline habitat beneath, as on this kame). Saved from being quarried years ago, this lovely Kane County preserve is thriving and expanding because of untold hours of Forest Preserve and volunteer effort. Johnson's Mound should be on your radar this fall (and in spring, too, for excellent wildflowers).

[More...](#)

GET OUTSIDE

Enjoy the outdoors by joining our upcoming local outings! [Sign up here.](#)



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