



# DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

Spring 2017  
Volume 36, No. 1



## Chatter From the Chair

By Jeff Gahris

May I introduce myself as your newly elected Executive Committee Chair. I am a long-time Sierra Club member, originally from Ohio. After moving to Illinois, I gradually became active in local Sierra Club activities in recent years, and became a member of the Executive Committee of the River Prairie Group. Now, as your newly elected Chair, I am assuming a role that I do not take lightly, especially so given the unexpected presidential election results and the tremendous upwelling of protest by environmentalists everywhere. The next few years promise to be exciting times and a watershed moment for the Earth, the health of our communities, and for future generations. The RPG is one of the strongest and most active of the 14 groups that make up the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, and we are stepping up our game.

In reading this and previous issues of DuPage Sierran, you may have noted all of the things we do. These include:

Enjoyable outings of all kinds, from easy to strenuous.

A river water quality monitoring program that has impacted public policy toward water quality management. We have also supported the work of the Salt Creek Work Group to find cost-effective approaches to protecting and restoring the quality of

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### DuPage Sierran

Executive Chair: Jeff Gahris

Editor: Sherry Stratton

Writers: Jeff Gahris, Connie Schmidt, Ryan Smith, Linda Sullivan, Paul Saindon, Lonnie Morris

Layout: Dave Blake

For activities, legislative action alerts, and outings information:

[Sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie](http://Sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie) or [SCTRIPS.org](http://SCTRIPS.org)

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

our streams.

Vetting and endorsing political candidates of any political party who can further the green agenda, plus making calls and going door-to-door in support of our endorsed candidates. We were happy to help Tammy Duckworth, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Deb Conroy, and Tom Cullerton win their recent elections.

Supporting the DuPage Monarch Project, and holding engaging programs such as the recent showing of "The Flight of the Butterflies" in a room filled to capacity.

Organizing Illinois Prairie Path cleanup outings,

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## “Chatter from the Chair”

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always pleasant with great company.

Staying on top of Forest Preserve District board meetings to assure preservation of natural areas in DuPage County.

Making our voices heard! For example, on January 23, we joined with the Northwest Cook County and Valley of the Fox groups to pay Rep. Peter Roskam's office a visit. We came by the hundreds to speak up about the need to implement the federal Clean Power Plan and not backpedal on the Paris climate accords. This was an important and exciting display of our ability to organize.

This year, I hope we can focus on goals such as growing an active membership, collaborating with other groups in DuPage County that share our values, and working with other Sierra Club groups

in our region to protect and enjoy our environment. By working together, we become a stronger movement. Please join our activities and stay involved. We hope to organize some planning committees to make it easier for you to jump in. So please let us know what you want from the RPG and how you want to help. Our children and their children need us now more than ever! And by the way, let's pause now and then and immerse ourselves in the beauty of DuPage County's natural areas.

Last, but not least, I thank Connie Schmidt for her tireless efforts as our prior RPG Chair! We are fortunate to have her continue with us on the Executive Committee. Her expertise and enthusiasm will be invaluable in the days ahead.

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

### **Officers:**

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

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

Linda Sullivan – Lobby Chair  
Bob Barbieri – Water Research Project  
Jeff Gahrns – Solar Energy Liaison  
Stacey Salmon – Political Endorsements  
Connie Schmidt – DuPage County Issues  
Dennis Streicher – DuPage Rivers Salt Creek Work Group Liaison

### **Additional Committee Chairs:**

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

# Illinois Passes Bipartisan Future Energy Jobs Bill

By Linda Sullivan

At a time when President Trump is declaring man-made climate change a hoax and vowing to reverse the Obama Administration's actions to combat it, Illinois took a far-reaching step toward growing a clean energy economy and limiting carbon pollution locally when it passed a bill that puts Illinois in the forefront nationally in the effort to combat climate change.

On the final day of the fall 2016 Veto Session, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Future Energy Jobs Bill. The Sierra Club, along with the 200-plus member Clean Jobs Coalition, had been working on this sweeping climate and clean energy bill for more than two years. Flaws in laws passed in 2007 had allowed the General Assembly to sweep funds specifically earmarked for investment in renewable energy into the General Fund and also sent what little investment there was out of state. The new law

fixes both problems. It also invests in energy efficiency for consumers and businesses, mandating a 21.5 percent reduction in energy use by 2030 for ComEd customers. According to independent experts, for every \$1 spent on efficiency, consumers save \$3. The law also mandates significant energy efficiency and renewable investment in low-income communities.

The bill is expected to generate \$2 billion in consumer savings and create 85,000 new jobs in Illinois.

Most of the media attention surrounding the bill focused on subsidies for the money-losing nuclear plants near Quad Cities and Clinton, Illinois. While the Sierra Club opposes nuclear power, it also realized that if the zero-carbon emitting nuclear plants closed before wind and solar energy had ramped up to fill the gap, dangerous fossil fuel energy would fill the void.

Sierra Club membership's deliberations on wheth-

er to support the bill took place on the Clean Power Team, which represented membership throughout the state. It was chaired by River Prairie Group's then-chair Connie Schmidt and staff member Caroline Wooten. The team discussed the bill on Monday nights as it was being negotiated, taking several votes along the way to guide Illinois Sierra Club director Jack Darin in negotiations.

The team noted that the nuclear subsidies would have a lifespan of ten years, whereas the renewable and efficiency benefits would be almost permanent and that 70 percent of the subsidies were for renewable energy and efficiency, dwarfing the money spent on nuclear energy. The team took into consideration that when nuclear subsidies end, solar and wind capacity are expected to be close to sufficient to fill the gap, and the plants can be allowed to close without any increase in

coal-generated energy. By wide margins, the Clean Power Team voted to back the bill.

In addition to the work of the Clean Energy Team, the Sierra Club Lobby Team has made hundreds of in-district visits with legislators asking them to cosponsor this bill and has made numerous trips to Springfield for Lobby Day and Clean Energy rallies. Thank you, Lobby Team!

This bill had bipartisan support. The River Prairie Group's great thanks go to the legislators from DuPage who voted for the bill: In the House, Representatives Patti Bellock (R); Peter Breen (R); Jim Durkin (R); Michael Fortner (R); Stephanie Kifowit (D); and Kathleen Willis (D). In the Senate, voting for the bill were Michael Connelly (R), Tom Cullerton (D), Chis Nybo (R), Jim Oberweis (R), and Christine Radogno (R).







# DuPage County Forest Preserve Update

By Ryan Smith, Senior Ranger  
Forest Preserve District DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is pleased to say that it experienced an eventful winter. Right as the new year kicked in, we saw the annual ice fishing tournament known as the "Hard Water Classic" have a record-setting attendance, where a 37.5-inch Northern was the biggest fish caught for the grand prize. The event was hosted by Forest Preserve Rangers at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville, January 14th. Also, the annual "Wonders of Winter" held February 4th at Mayslake Peabody Estate was again a huge hit for all seeking to be rid of their winter blues. Here, participants were able to help cut ice from the lake and meet live birds of prey from Willowbrook Wildlife Center's raptor-education program. Many were able to warm up around an open fire while making s'mores and then step inside Mayslake Hall for games, crafts, and exploration of the historic building. Other event activities included archery and geocaching. If you didn't get a chance to make it out to these events, keep your eyes peeled on the Forest Preserve District's website for events happening throughout the year.

With warmer temps soon approaching, we remind visitors that signs of winter still exist, which can include ice covering most of the waters within DuPage Forest Preserves. As a guideline, not a guarantee, a minimum of 4 inches of ice is recommended for fishing, skating, and other ice activities. Anglers should still be carrying a rope or floatation device with them to assist if someone falls through the ice. As always, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage county recommends wearing a life jacket/personal floatation device when fishing offshore, including ice fishing. A quick reminder: Ice conditions are not monitored by rangers, so ice fishing is done at an angler's own risk. Anglers should note that ice may be safe in one spot yet very thin only a few feet away. River currents, underwater springs, animal activity or runoff from local roads can all create hard-to-detect



areas of thin ice. Remember, no ice should be considered totally safe.

Along with warmer temps, we see an increase in forest preserve recreation, especially in water use. It is important to remember that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources requires water usage

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## “Forest Preserve Update” (Continued from page 4)

stamps on all non-motorized watercraft on Illinois waterways. Stamps are \$6.50 for the first three vessels and are good until Dec. 31, 2017. Boaters must affix the stamps to watercraft so IDNR conservation officers and Forest Preserve District police officers and rangers can easily see them. Also, visitors in select non-powered watercraft with valid District permits can boat on four forest preserve lakes. These include Silver Lake at Blackwell Forest Preserve, Hidden Lake at Round Meadow Forest Preserve, and Mallard Lake at Mallard Lake Forest Preserve. Boaters without District permits can access both branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek at any practical forest preserve location. For more details, visit the District's website or call Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248.

The Forest Preserve District has a great lineup of fun day camps for kids and teens ages 4–15. Registration for spring break camps and registration for summer camps are currently underway. The always-popular Ranger Adventure camp is just one of many you can find on the District website. Here, kids ages 9–12 can try archery, boating, fishing, and hiking while improving their team-building and wilderness-survival skills with the guidance of Forest Preserve Rangers. This year we've added an archery camp for ages 8–11, kayaking camp for ages 10–15, and a soon to be popular junior keeper camp for wildlife enthusiasts ages 9–12 being held at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn. Camps like these offer opportunities for children and teenagers to become

more acquainted with the great outdoors and find fulfillment in the many activities that DuPage County offers throughout the year.

With spring approaching, excitement for re-growth and new life fills our wonderment for the outdoors. A reminder is that unlike humans, young wild animals are not constantly supervised by their parents. They spend much of their time alone or with siblings. Because of this fact, people should leave young wildlife alone whenever possible. Willowbrook Wildlife Center receives hundreds of young birds and mammals each year, and although it can often successfully raise them, animals generally fare better if their parents do the job. If you've found a young wild animal on its own, first determine that it is truly an orphan by checking for signs of ill health. If the animal does not appear sick or injured, give the mother time to return. If it does appear sick, call Willowbrook Wildlife Center at (630) 942-6200.

We look forward to seeing you out this spring; just remember to bundle up, keep warm, and enjoy outdoor recreation responsibly. As always, please advise the Forest Preserve District of any concerns through the Forest Preserve's main phone number (630) 933-7200.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has been connecting people to nature for more than 100 years. More than 4 million people visit its 60 forest preserves, 145 miles of trails, five education centers and scores of programs each year.



# Peter... Can You Hear Us Now?

By *Connie Schmidt and Barbara Hill*

Congressman Peter Roskam was awakened last month by a rally cry from nearly 300 residents that Climate Change is real and they want him to address it by supporting the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan. The event was spearheaded by Sierra Club when three northern Illinois groups collaborated: The Northwest Cook, Valley of the Fox, and our own River Prairie Group, along with the Illinois Chapter staff and volunteers. In addition, a wide swath of outreach was extended to the following groups, which helped net the fabulous turnout:

- Northwest Suburbs Organizing For Action
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice
- 350.org
- Interfaith Greens
- League of Women Voters
- Prairie Woods Audubon
- Suburban Go Green Groups
- Action 6th District Illinois
- Action for a Better Tomorrow, Illinois Northwest Suburbs
- Living Green in Elk Grove Village
- Greater Palatine Area Democrats
- NW Suburbs Environmental MeetUp Group
- Barrington Area Democratic Organization

- Food and Water Watch
- Democratic Party of DuPage County
- Consortium of North Shore Environmental Groups

Almost all planning and organizing was done by volunteers. Participants were recruited via email, phone banks, websites, Facebook events, flyers, and word of mouth. The event was a rally on Monday, January 23, at 3:30 p.m., with three speakers down the hall from the main district office of Rep. Peter Roskam (R, IL-06), followed by delivery of postcards asking Roskam to act on climate change, specifically by supporting the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan.

Nearly 300 people turned out, maybe more. Three hundred postcards were printed with only six left over, and multiple attendees brought their own cards, as well. Tim Milburn, a Sierra Club volunteer from the Northwest Cook group served as emcee. In addition, there were three inspiring speakers: Jack Darin, executive director of the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter; Mary Shesgreen, chair of Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice; and J. C. Kibbey, Midwest outreach and policy advocate of the Union of Concerned Scientists. J. C. summed up our message

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## “Can You Hear Us Now?” (Continued from page 6)

well: “There is no scientific debate. Climate change is real. It is caused by humans. And it is going to be bad if we don’t do something.”

Roskam’s staff definitely took notice. Almost all participants filed into his office at the end of the rally to hand-deliver their postcards. Channel 5 NBC TV and a half dozen or so newspapers were there, as well. Channel 5 aired a short segment on its 5:00 news that evening, and at least five newspapers ran articles with photos and/or video. Roskam’s office responded to media inquiries by saying that Roskam supports an “all of the above” energy policy.

We also urged Roskam constituents who could not attend to phone Roskam’s office. There was no way for us to count these calls, but several phone bankers told us that more people said they would

call than said they would or might come to the rally. It is therefore likely that Roskam has received hundreds of calls.

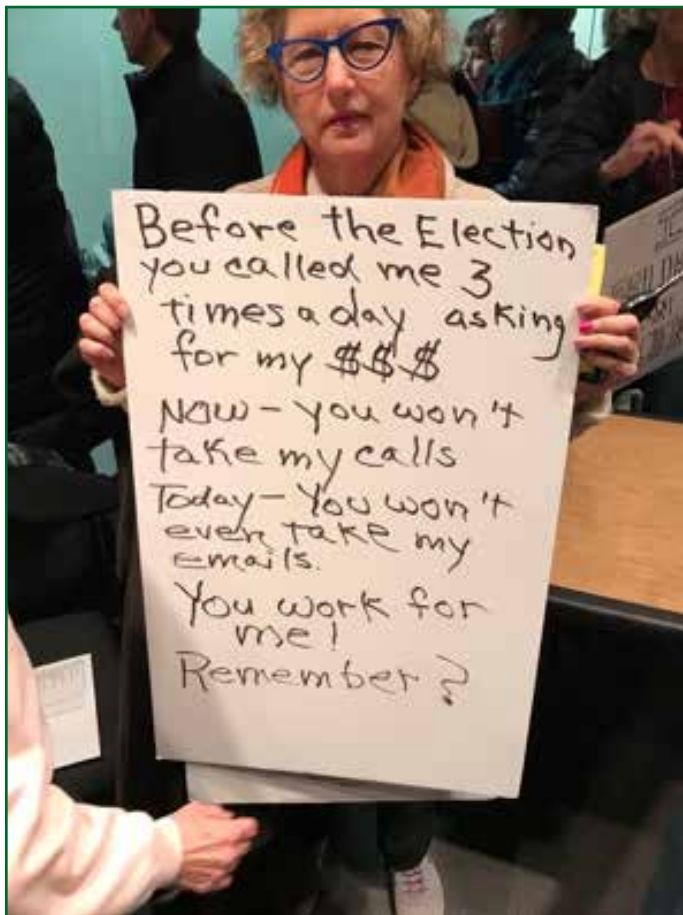
To continue calls to Roskam’s office:  
(202) 225-4561 or (630) 232-0006

Links to press coverage:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/elgin-courier-news/news/ct-ecn-roskam-protest-st-0124-20170123-story.html>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/arlington-heights/community/chi-ugc-article-break-with-trump-on-climate-change-constit-2017-01-23-story.html>

video <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170123/news/170129515/>







# NEW ACTIVISTS SCORE A MAJOR WIN FOR MONARCHS

By Lonnie Morris

Emily Hansen and Kathleen McTighe took a giant leap into the unknown when asked to help monarchs. Their shared concern for the imperiled butterfly launched them into the public arena and saw them through to a successful outcome.

Hansen and McTighe already had a history with native plants, the key to healthy monarch habitat, when they agreed to be advocates for the butterfly. McTighe, a retired elementary school teacher, had recently redesigned her landscape, replacing traditional plantings with wildlife-friendly natives. Hansen's environmental roots began with a degree in natural resources conservation and employment on various ecological restoration projects. They also shared a connection with Denise Sandoval, a local member of Wild Ones and DuPage Monarch Project (DMP), who called upon them when DMP was looking for volunteers to reach out to municipal leaders in Naperville.

Hansen and McTighe's first step as new activists was to learn as much as they could before approaching decision makers. Wanting to know more about the activist process, they turned to Connie Schmidt, DuPage Monarch Project board member and seasoned activist. Schmidt outlined the recommended steps: researching the monarch's situation and proposed solutions, looking into what their community was already doing, connecting with like-

minded people, using the model resolution on DMP's website as a starting point, and asking questions all along the way.

"Kathleen and Emily had little previous experience in community advocacy work," said Schmidt, "but sitting around a kitchen table gazing out into a native garden, we immediately formed a bond. They cared deeply about improving habitat for native species and were willing to jump out of their comfort zone into the boardrooms to get the backing of their local Park District on this critical issue."

What at first felt overwhelming quickly became an adventure. They began with Naperville's 41-page Sustainability Plan. Naperville, as one of Sierra Club's Cool Cities, has a plan that focuses primarily on energy and transportation policies, development, and resources. It was new to

Hansen and McTighe and left them feeling proud of their city's commitment to sustainability. Additional research revealed that the city had recently planted a pollinator garden over the garage at the Municipal Center. City staff informed them that Naperville had approved a monarch pledge, and it would be announced in spring of 2017.

With the city already on board, Hansen and McTighe turned their attention to the Park District. Naperville has 2400 acres of parkland, and the two of them set off on a series of mini field trips to fa-



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# MONARCHS BRING IN A CROWD!

By **Connie Schmidt**

Look at all the wonderful people that came out to see the movie *The Flight of the Butterflies* at the January RPG program! The DuPage Monarch Project chair, Lonnie Morris, with co-sponsors Emhurst and Lombard Garden Clubs, Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter, and the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission and Park District, orchestrated the event. The space was packed with monarch enthusiasts. The DuPage Monarch Project is a group of local organizations working together to provide education about monarchs and increase the amount of suitable monarch habitat throughout DuPage County. DuPage Monarch Project is asking mayors and village boards to formally resolve to make their communities more monarch friendly. Visit their web-



site for more information, or contact Lonnie Morris to learn how to make your community a friendly stop for these amazing creatures!

"Like" DuPage Monarch Project on Facebook  
Visit the website: [dupagemonarchs.com](http://dupagemonarchs.com)  
Lonnie Morris: [herbdove@comcast.net](mailto:herbdove@comcast.net)

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## **"New Activists Score Major Win"** (Continued from page 8)

miliarize themselves with the local parks, including Knoch Knolls Nature Center. They found milkweed in a native planting at Knoch Knolls, and the building was certified LEED Platinum, with many state-of-the-art sustainability features.

Pride in their community continued to grow.

Hansen and McTighe encountered a reservoir of support for monarchs when they reached out to local gardening groups. Members of the Naperville Community Gardeners raised their hands in support within minutes of hearing about the monarch resolution.

Confidence grew every step of the way from the

encouragement and warm, supportive responses they received. The City and Park District were already taking action to help pollinators, the community was eager to support a resolution, and they were speaking on behalf of a county-wide initiative. Within a few short months of Hansen and McTighe becoming DuPage Monarch Project spokespersons, Naperville Park District signed a Monarch Resolution.

"It's amazing what you can accomplish when you have a passion," said McTighe. "Follow your heart and passions and know there are great rewards in making a difference."



# REMEMBERING MARK GINGER

By Jan Bradford

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, River Prairie leaders will be hosting a "Remember Mark Ginger" social get-together for all friends, family, and Sierra members for a potluck, hike, bike, and much more.

Mark Ginger, age 55, was an active volunteer with the Sierra Club and Volo as a trip leader and naturalist. He was an enthusiastic camper, hiker, biker, and cross-country skier, and a true protector of nature.

So come join us at shelter #20 in Busse Woods for a day to remember Mark Ginger. Activities start at 10 AM with potluck at noon and more activities at 1 PM.

Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service (silverware, plates, cups), beverage, and optional table and chairs as seating may be limited.

One hundred percent of any donations will go for a memorial to honor Mark. Please contact Jan Bradford at [jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net) for sign-ups. Save the date and join us!

Click here for more info on the South Grove: [https://fpdcc.com/downloads/maps/pdf/FPCC-Busse\\_Forest\\_South-Grove-Map-2014.pdf](https://fpdcc.com/downloads/maps/pdf/FPCC-Busse_Forest_South-Grove-Map-2014.pdf)

# A Volunteer you should know: Daughter's question sends mom's life in a new direction

By Linda Sullivan

"Mommy, will I be able to grow old?" Stacey Salman's third-grade daughter posed this startling question walking on the beach. She had learned about climate change and rising sea levels. She feared the planet would not be healthy enough in the future for humans.

Salman assured her daughter that all would be well, that the nation's leaders and experts would take care of the problem, but, she said, "It felt like lying."

Stacey Salman is a River Prairie Group volunteer you should know. Her sense of responsibility awakened by her daughter, now 17, has shaped her life.

Her first involvement was to attend 2008 Lobby Day in Springfield, something she spontaneously signed up for based on an email that found its way to her in-box. "I dropped my youngest off at pre-school and headed for Springfield," the mother of three recalled. The issue that galvanized her was BPA. "I wanted to hold our leaders accountable," she said. "I was shocked that this chemical, an endocrine disruptor, was in the bottles and cups my kids were drinking from. I was outraged that the industry or government would not respond. I had to try to change that."

In Springfield, Stacey was teamed up for lobby visits with a Sierra Club member who recruited her for the Sierra Club Lobby Team. Quickly her attention was drawn to energy issues and the threat of climate change. Her ever-deepening involvement led her to accept responsibility as a member of the River Prairie Group Executive Committee and then as RPG Political Chair.

When her youngest was six, she went back to



school so she could make protecting the environment a life's work. In 2013, she graduated from Northwestern University with a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration, with a focus on clean energy.

Today the Downers Grove native works for the Illinois Sierra Club as a general support to all the Chapter's activities. She also recently started working for National Sierra Club as lead in a capacity building program that is being rolled out in Illinois but will move to targeted states before going national. "Many people see the threat that Donald Trump poses to the environment and our communities," she said. "They want to get involved but don't know how. My job is to help connect people within their communities, create a community dialog, and build power. We're building a movement here and know that organized communities are stronger communities. By relying on proven grassroots organizing, we can resist the new administration's harmful agenda."

Amazingly, Salman still volunteers with the RPG. She is still the group's Political Chair and an Executive Committee member. "Sierra Club's political work in DuPage is so valuable. We've helped to elect impressive green leaders and build the relationships we need to make a difference. This is where I live. It's too important to walk away from this work."



# River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings

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

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

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

### Membership Social and Engagement Meeting

**Tue, Mar 21, 2017 7:00 PM**

**Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 Main Street**

Come join River Prairie Group activists and find out what the Sierra Club and our Group are about and what we do and how you can become involved in outings, environmental activism, educational opportunities, and more.

### Two-Day 26-Mile Hike Around Lake Geneva

**Sat, April 1, 9AM–Sun, April 2, 5PM**

**Sage Street Municipal Lot, Lake Geneva, WI**

Come explore with us on a two-day 26 mile hike around Lake Geneva, where we'll see incredible estates and various architectural styles up close from the trail. On Saturday morning, we'll meet in Lake Geneva and start our hike heading south around the lake (clockwise). We'll stop for the evening in Fontana for good eating at Gordy's Boat House and rest up at the Fontana Village Inn.

On Sunday morning, we'll have a continental breakfast provided by your leaders, and then, we'll head out to finish hiking around the north end of the lake. This hike will be 13 miles each day and is for longer distance hikers. Limit 12. Leader is Paul Saindon. Assistant leader is Reina Kalish.

Cost is \$75 per person for double room, which includes 1 night lodging, continental breakfast, and Sierra Club donation. Full payment is required in advance to secure your spot.

To sign up, email: Reina, [rdkalish@yahoo.com](mailto:rdkalish@yahoo.com).

### Churchill Woods/Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve Service Event

**Organized by Forest Preserve**

**District of DuPage County**

**Sat, April 1, 9AM–12PM**

**Walnut Glen Park, 860 Walnut St, Glen Ellyn, IL**

**Preregistration, waiver, and proper dress are required.**

If you would like to learn more about the native plants growing in our areas and would like to help restore their environment, please join us for a volunteer workday with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

Our River Prairie Group has been volunteering on this unique site for many years.

Contact Bruce Blake for more information - [rln-stns1@aol.com](mailto:rln-stns1@aol.com). Call the FPDDC Volunteer Office at (630) 206-9630 to register and fill out a waiver. If you are under 18, a parent or guardian must sign the waiver for you. Ages 8 through 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Also check "more info" for waiver link. Note: This outing is under the auspices and rules of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). This is not a Sierra Club sponsored activity, but we strongly support the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

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

### Hike Kettle Moraine Nordic Trail

**Sat, April 8, 9:30 AM–4PM**

**County Road H, Elkhorn, WI**

We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Nordic Trail parking lot on Highway H, approximately 1 mile north of the

intersection of H and US highway 12 in Lagrange, WI.

We will hike the 9-mile loop along wooded trail over rolling glacial topography, stopping for lunch along the way. The Nordic trail provides hiking through a variety of vegetation, hardwoods, pine plantations, open meadows and kettle moraine terrain.

We should be back to the lot by 4:00 PM. Cost: \$3. Limit 14. Leader: Paul Saindon. Email Paul at paul@pauls.us to sign-up.

Note: nonresidents pay a \$11 parking fee, car-pooling is encouraged.

### **Good Friday Spring Wildflower Hike at White Pines State Park**

**Friday, April 14, 9:15 AM  
Polo, IL 61064**

Come join us to identify spring wildflowers at beautiful White Pines State Park. This will be a leisurely hike as we will stop often to identify the flowers. Several years ago we identified about 30 different kinds and saw several patches of massive flowers. So bring your cameras and books and come with us. Assistant Leader Mike Way, Limit 20, Sierra fee \$3. Please contact the leader Jan Bradford at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

### **Wildflowers, waterfalls and canyons of Starved Rock State Park**

**Sat, April 22, 9AM-3PM  
Bluff Trail, Oglesby, IL**

Our moderate hike will wind through carpets of wildflowers in the bottomlands of these beautiful bluffs and canyons, then up on top for great views over the Illinois River. Depending on habitat, we'll see lots of wildflowers: bluebells, mayapple, trillium, and bellwort to name just a few.

Sign up soon for our full day of hiking on this popular Sierra club hike. Issues facing this special place will also be discussed and seen firsthand. We may end in Utica for drinks and grub afterward.

### **Churchill Woods/Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve Service Event**

**Sat, April 22, 9AM-12PM  
Walnut Glen Park, 860 Walnut St, Glen Ellyn, IL  
Organized by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

See details and description from April 1 date.

### **Illinois Prairie Path Clean-up (RPG Section)**

**Sat, April 29, 9AM-12PM**

**Parking Lot near 485 N Montclair Ave, Glen Ellyn, IL**

For the initial 2017 trail clean-up event we are "piggy-backing" on the annual Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) event.

This outing will be April 29, 9 AM. This is an easy 2-mile walk on the Illinois Prairie Path to Hill Avenue (+?) and back. It may be canceled if weather is severe, but the IPP-organized event is officially rain or shine.

The starting location for us is at the east end of the parking lot near 485 N Montclair St, Glen Ellyn, where it dead ends into the Prairie Path just south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. People should contact me if interested due to possible late developments, Jeff Gahris, (630) 853-5505.

FYI - subsequent 2017 dates (TBA) will be Sierra Club clean-ups, but we will be following County requirements. This allows us to have an Adopt-a-Trail sign on the trail with the Sierra Club name on it.

### **Annual Trail Clean-Up**

**Sat, April 29, 9AM**

**Organized by Friends of the Great Western Trails and Illinois Prairie Path**

In observance of Earth Day 2017; the Friends of the Great Western Trails in cooperation with The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC) has scheduled its annual trail cleanup for Saturday, April 29 rain or shine. Our goal this year is to clean all the trails including both sections of the Great Western Trail (GWT) and all of the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP). We are asking for your help. We want you to help us and roll-up your sleeves (but wear work gloves) and pick up litter along these trails. Bring friends and family (and garbage bags to fill) on Saturday, April 29, 2017. If you, your family and/or co-workers are interested in helping us and help manage a section of the GWT cleanup, please contact Don Kirchenberg.

For the Great Western Trails contact:  
Don Kirchenberg via email frndsgrtwstntrl@aol.com

For the Illinois Prairie Path cleanup info go to their website at [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org) or contact Sue Degnan at [suelite97@yahoo.com](mailto:suelite97@yahoo.com).

## Remembering Mark Ginger

**Sunday, April 30, 10AM–2PM**

**IL-53, Schaumburg, IL 60173**

Come join us for a Day remembering Mark Ginger. We will be having an optional hike/bike starting at 10AM Busse Woods Shelter #20-entrance first south side of Higgins just east of the expressway and #72. Then potluck at 12 noon with another optional hike/bike beginning at 1PM. Friends, family and Sierra members are invited to join us. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service, beverage and optional table/chairs as seating may be limited. 100% of any donation will go for a memorial to honor Mark. Please contact Jan Bradford at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net for sign ups. Assistants are the Sierra Leaders of River Prairie Group Chapter of the Sierra Club. So save the date and join us.

## Outings Committee meeting

**Wed, May 3, 6:30 PM**

The outings committee creates and runs Sierra Club trips. If you have thought about volunteering and like to be outdoors this may be for you. We're always looking for leaders and assistants. Also in need of a secretary, someone who could help advertise outings and more.

Signup Instructions: contact Paul Saindon at paul@pauls.us

## Mississippi Palisades Spring Flower Hike/Bike

**Saturday, May 6–Sunday, May 7**

**Savanna Illinois**

Hike on former Indian trails in the Mississippi Palisades State Park. Be amazed by the profusion of spring wild flowers throughout the south side of the park. Study and identify the spring wildflowers covering the slopes. Hike along ancient Indian trails overlooking the Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. Spend one day either hiking or biking a section of the Illinois Great River Trail starting in Savanna. Camp or stay at a local inn. Limit 20. Cost is \$40 (\$5 discount for Sierra Club members). \$25 deposit is due April 1. Leader is Marlena Bertolozzi. Assistant leader TBD. Call Marlena at 708-267-4238 to sign up for this popular trip.

## Horicon Bird Festival Getaway-Weekend

**Friday, May 12–Sunday, May 14**

**Horicon, WI 53032**

Come join me for a fun getaway-weekend and learn about bird banding, identify birds, see and hear about birds of prey, cranes, warblers and other migrating birds. This is a drive up Friday evening with a possible group dinner. Saturday we start with bird

banding demonstrations, then travel to the education center and around the marsh exploring both the state and federal sides of Horicon Marsh. Saturday night is an optional hike with a ranger for "Sounds of the night" and Sunday will be a pontoon ride out into the marsh with a bird expert. A great getaway-weekend for all and to learn about birds. Limit 12 \$133 each includes 2 night stay at a motel, fees, and pontoon ride but does not include your dinners. Please contact Jan Bradford, leader, at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net Co-leader Bernie Kolasa and Asst leader Cliff Zimmerman (Special presentation to be given in memory of Barb Harvey who helped me create this trip)

## Churchill Woods/Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve Service Event

**Sat, May 13, 9AM–12PM**

**Walnut Glen Park, 860 Walnut St, Glen Ellyn, IL**

**Organized by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

See details and description from April 1 date.

## Discover Northwestern Illinois

**Saturday, May 13–Sunday, May 14**

**Pecatonica River Forestry Preserve,**

**7260 Judd Rd, Pecatonica, IL**

Hike through the rolling woods and fields along the Pecatonica River. We will hike through the Pecatonica Nature Preserve on Saturday and the Seward Bluffs area on Sunday. This is an opportunity to see that Illinois is not completely flat! There is camping available at Seward Bluffs for those who want to base camp. However, we can camp out or bed down at my farm. There is a B&B in the area as well as a couple of motels. Contact Marlena Bertolozzi for details - 708-267-4238. Assistant needed.

## Dog Friendly Camping and Hiking at Yellowstone Lake State Park in Wisconsin

**Fri, Jun 2, 7PM–Sun, Jun 4, 12PM**

**Yellowstone Lake State Park,**

**8495 Lake Rd, Blanchardville, WI**

Join us for a dog-friendly camping and hiking trip at the Yellowstone Lake State Park in Wisconsin, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. We will hike on Saturday and Sunday morning. Humans unaccompanied by canines are welcome too!

Yellowstone Lake State Park is a state park of Wisconsin, featuring a 455-acre reservoir on a tributary of the Pecatonica River. The state park is included in the 4,047-acre Yellowstone Lake State Wildlife Area. The park includes 13 miles of hiking trails that vary in





difficulty. Limit 12. Leader is Paul Saindon. Assistant leader is Reina Kalish.

Cost: Cost is \$40. \$25 deposit is due March 1. Please note that a park admission sticker is required on all vehicles and is not included in the cost. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/admission.html>  
Email Reina at [rdkalish@yahoo.com](mailto:rdkalish@yahoo.com) to sign up.

### **Churchill Woods/Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve Service Event**

**Sat, Jun 10, 9AM–12PM**

**Walnut Glen Park, 860 Walnut St, Glen Ellyn, IL**

**Organized by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**

See details and description from April 1 date.

### **Spring Paddle on the Nippersink Creek at Glacial Park Conservation Area**

**Sat, Jun 10, 9:30 AM–4:30 PM**

**6014 Mill Dr, Wonder Lake, IL**

Join us for a 7 mile paddle down the Nippersink Creek in McHenry County just south of Richmond, IL (near the Wisconsin border).

After the outing, join us for dinner, drinks and good cheer at Doyle's Pub in Richmond, IL.

Cost: \$38.00 per person for a tandem canoe. \$50 per person for a solo kayak. The cost covers the use of the watercraft, life jackets (PDA's), paddles and transportation. In addition, a small fee is included to support Sierra Club initiatives.

To sign up for this outing, email the leader at [paul@pauls.us](mailto:paul@pauls.us).

### **1 Watt House and Bison Tours**

**Sun, Jun 25, 9:30 AM–3PM**

**8772 Lowden Rd, Franklin Grove, IL**

Join us for an educational tour of a solar/geothermal powered home and more as we tour an energy efficient home of the future. Then our tour continues to Nachusa Grasslands to learn about prairie restoration and the Bison group that is now living there and see the newborn bison. Assistant Leader is Mike Way and limit 20 Please contact leader Jan Bradford at [sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbcglobal.net) for sign up. Cost: \$5

**Great attendance  
at a recent outing  
to Starved Rock.  
Check out the  
calendar for  
upcoming events.  
We are always  
looking for new  
assistant leaders  
to join us too!**



Photo by Ed Max

# The Sierra Club Wants YOU!

Come on down to the March general meeting of the River Prairie Group and learn how you can become more involved OR just learn what YOUR club is doing to “Enjoy, Explore and Protect” the planet. We will be meeting at the Glen Ellyn History Center (800 North Main Street) on March 21 from 7:00 - 8:30. Activists from various areas including Clean Energy, Restoration, Lobby Efforts, will update you on our latest activities as well as ask you how you want to be involved in planning the future moves for our vital organization.

Questions? Contact:  
Connie Schmidt  
twenstr111@msn.com  
630 234 3029







# Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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