

DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

Spring 2019, Volume 38, No. 1

Hold a "No to Low" Waste Event

by *Connie Schmidt*



Put as little as possible into the landfills and lead by example!

With the convenience of paper, plastic, and the dreaded Styrofoam, this may seem like a tough goal, but not necessarily. Several years ago, our son decided to have his wedding in our backyard and in true “Hippie-Child” fashion, wanted a no-waste event. Serving 120 folks vegetarian meals, having a friend with an antique shop who loaned linens, using rented plates and mason jars, and a plethora of wildflowers in various containers provided the essentials for this memorable event.

Since that time, I have hosted numerous other events with this goal in mind: put as little as possible into the landfills and lead by example. It is not that hard to do, and you can surely create a classy and creative look at the same time. Read some tips to make it happen at your next event!

[More...](#)

Modern Day Voyagers in Our Midst



On March 5th at 7:30 pm at the Glen Ellyn History Center (800 N. Main Street), we have an amazing adventure program planned for you. A member of our neighbor Valley of the Fox Sierra Club Group, Charlie Zine, will present an exciting journey beginning at the headwaters of the Fox River.

[More details here.](#)

RSVP

Monarch Documentary to be Shown



"The Guardians": A struggle about preserving Monarch butterflies in Michoacan, Mexico

March 7th at 7:00 PM

Glenside Public Library, 25 E. Fullerton Ave.,
Glendale Heights

[More details here.](#)

RSVP

Free March 30 Seminar in DuPage County to Highlight Clean Energy Opportunities for Communities of Faith

by Connie Schmidt



People across DuPage County and Illinois are excited about saving money and decreasing their carbon footprint with energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. The Future Energy Jobs Act of late 2016 (FEJA) offers myriad incentives for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. Houses of worship are known for their fiscally conservative budgets and desire for social consciousness. This makes for a perfect audience for an upcoming FREE seminar organized by three DuPage-area organizations: Faith in Place, Congregations Collaborating for Sustainability, and the DuPage Clean Energy Coalition. [More details here.](#)

[Register Here](#)

West Chicago to Celebrate the Monarch Butterfly through Art, Film, and History

Yearlong schedule of events and activities to bring awareness, education, and beauty to the community and beyond

by Rosemary Mackey



Frigid temperatures notwithstanding, West Chicago is embracing 2019 with sights set on celebrating the beauty and wonder of a small winged creature which will shortly be waking from its months-long hibernation in warmer climates and begin its journey to the western suburbs.

The Monarch butterfly's wondrous migration and subsequent transformation has become something of a metaphor for the diverse community of West Chicago itself, which will be celebrating *The Year of the Butterfly* through an exciting calendar of programs and events. [See the schedule of events here.](#)

Our River Monitoring Project

by Bob Barbieri



The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club conducts water tests on rivers throughout DuPage County. The River Monitoring Project, launched in January 2000, performs quarterly and monthly testing on a number of sites along the Salt Creek and the East and West Branches of the DuPage River. The river water samples are collected and tested by local Sierra Club volunteers.

The group summarizes the test results on their website to educate DuPage residents about the waterways in their backyards. The test data are also valuable to researchers, educators, and policymakers, and have ongoing value--providing a baseline against which the rivers' water quality can be analyzed in the future. Of course, we always welcome new volunteers to help with this effort.

[More...](#)

Meet Daniel Hebreard

by Jeff Gahrns



Daniel Hebreard, formerly a Park Ranger with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage, has been elected President of the same organization. Recently, President Hebreard kindly agreed to answer a few questions about himself and his new role. [Here are his responses.](#)

Jeff's Joys

by Jeff Gahris



In the last issue of our newsletter this column was accidentally renamed from “Jeff’s Jots” to “Jeff’s Joys.” Even now, after the holiday season, it seems a fitting change. I continue to find joy in seeing our environmental movement move forward. I think of little things like seeing a new commercial building outfitted with well-designed outdoor lighting that does not cause blinding glare or obliterate our view of the stars. I enjoyed the great turnout for our recent Concert for a Cause, which was supported by great musicians and volunteers. More significantly, an interesting shift has occurred this year – people are beginning to debate how to address global warming and climate change, and are forming community groups in DuPage to pursue courses of action. The DuPage Clean Energy Coalition is gaining momentum. If you live in DuPage, it’s time for you to hop on board the train!

The issue of how we respond to global warming and the resulting climate change is daunting, but as Alisha Drabek states in the November-December Sierran magazine, when you say “I am sad” in her native Alitiiq language, it is literally translated to mean “I am searching for my content.” This suggests to me that our impact on the earth is fundamentally a spiritual crisis, compelling us to learn how to be content with the things we have.

GET OUTSIDE



[Facebook](#)

Did you develop a case of cabin fever this winter? Perhaps it's time to consider a Sierra Club outing!

Follow us on Facebook for news, events & updates on the work we do to keep IL green!

[See our scheduled outings](#)

[Donate to Sierra Club Illinois](#)
