



DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

Summer 2017
Volume 36, No. 2



Pictured: Jeff with Karen Brittain, Special Projects Coordinator for DuPage Monarch Project, at Glen Ellyn Earth Day event April 22.

Chatter From the Chair “When Pigs Fly”

By Jeff Gahris

Back in March we had a great engagement meeting in a room full of people, including some of over 100 new members who joined in recent months. Here’s an update on some of what’s happening since then.

Hopefully you had a chance to participate in the Science March or Peoples’ Climate March in late April. Rallies and marches have become quite large as hundreds of thousands demand to be heard as a political force for the environment, and they really do make a difference. They energize our movement and have been impactful, as have our visits to Congressman Roskam’s office, and phone calls to various elected officials. It has been because of your efforts and the help of other groups such as the Food and Water Watch that we have had recent success in accessing Congressman Roskam and his staff.

Sierra Club’s Northwest Cook and River Prairie

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DuPage Sierran

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For activities, legislative action alerts, and outings information:

Sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie or SCTRIPS.org

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

Group lobby teams have been engaging Roskam and his staff about Great Lakes program funding and have thanked him for signing a letter from Great Lakes congressional representatives. Roskam, for his part, asserts that he seeks a “balanced approach” and will not support occasions when he thinks EPA overreaches its authority. While his position may seem reasonable enough, we are calling him out on his voting record on environmental issues, which does not appear very balanced to us. Let’s see what threats emerge this summer as budget discussions continue.

Rep. Roskam is also known for his discomfort

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“Chatter from the Chair”

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with strident groups, and he would like us to help in “lowering the wattage” when it comes to public engagement. We look forward to working with his office on environmental issues generally and when specific bills come up for a vote, but “lowering the wattage” of our membership and concerned constituents must come with a reduction in hostility toward environmental protection in Washington, or when pigs fly, whichever comes first.

In spite of the backpedaling in Washington on environmental policy, we are heartened by the prospect of more growth of clean power in Illinois thanks to the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act. This can make Illinois a national leader, but we must watch how it will be implemented. We have formed a Clean Power Team subcommittee and are planning a “town hall” meeting with elected

officials this autumn. We are also watching some priority bills such as a proposed ban on coal tar sealants, so stay tuned as issues and opportunities for progress emerge this summer! Meanwhile, I for one look forward to some pleasant Sierra Club outings to re-energize.

Finally, I am happy to announce the first of several Summer Socials! **The first will be at the “My Half of the Sky” coffee shop, 121 W. Wesley Ave, Wheaton, June 22, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.** Have a snack and a cup of coffee while socializing with your fellow Sierrans in a relaxed socially and environmentally responsible atmosphere. Feel free to ask questions about the River Prairie Group’s programs and activities. The shop, in part, is not fully accessible. For further information contact: Jeff Gahrns, jgahrns@gmail.com

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
Clean Jobs
Coalition

So what is happening with Clean Energy? Lots!

By Jeff Gahrts

At the federal level, clean energy policy may not look very pretty under the new administration, but Illinois has been enormously blessed by the passage of the Future Jobs Act. Passed in December of last year, it will become in effect in June 2017. So what does it mean for us? According to Mike Nicolosi, owner of solar installer Rethink Electric, "The Midwest is finally going to catch up with the rest of the country with solar deployment! The incentives and KWh rates are finally where they need to be for solar to make economic sense. My business has been growing at a very fast clip, and I see this trend not slowing down for the next five years."

Solar panels are being installed on homes and other buildings in DuPage County at a rate never seen before. So what is driving this? The answer is decreasing installation costs, a federal tax incentive, a renewable energy credit market for new installs, and guaranteed net metering. With smart meters, net metering gives solar owners a credit on their electric bills for excess electricity generated during daytime hours. The new law secures net metering, which is critical for residential solar development.

And as you may have heard, on April 17, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a plan to transition the Chicago city-owned buildings and operations to 100 percent clean energy. As stated in the Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter's web site, "Leadership on clean energy and climate change is not coming from Washington—quite the opposite. It has never

been more important that local communities step up where national leaders step back. Chicago is pushing forward." —Tony Fuller, Sierra Club Chicago Group Co-Chair.

At a recent meeting hosted by the Resiliency Institute in Naperville, Tim Montague of Continental Electric Construction Company presented opportunities for community solar in Illinois. With the new law, you can become a community solar subscriber and participate in clean energy solutions even if you don't own a suitable roof or other place to install solar panels. Implementing rules have yet to be written about this, so we need to stay vigilant to assure that community solar becomes workable in Illinois. At last the so-called renewable portfolio standard has been fixed, so we should see more utility-scale wind and solar projects as well, enough to meet the goal of 25 percent renewable power in Illinois by 2025.

Finally, the new law requires ComEd to reduce electricity waste by 21.5 percent by 2030 through energy efficiency measures, and it provides \$750 million to low-income programs such as new energy jobs training ("Solar for All") and assistance to help consumers cut utility bills. Again, we need to watch how the rules will be written in the weeks ahead, and we need to assure that the rate-payer supplied funding for these programs is not swept by policy-makers in Springfield. The environment, and up to \$15 billion in job-creating investment, is at stake.



DuPage County Forest Preserve Update

By Ryan Smith, Senior Ranger
Forest Preserve District DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage was pleased to enjoy a warm, wet, and eventful spring. We hope you were able to join us as we set out to experience the spectacular wonderments of the season's short-lived blooms. Some of the great seasonal blooms you would have been able to see included the popular spring beauty, toothwort, bloodroot, red trillium, bellwort, and may apple, to name a few. Most of these spring blooms occur in woodlands, which is why they are short lived, or ephemerals. They must sprout, grow, flower, fruit, and set seeds before the leaves return to the trees and block out the sun. But now, with summer fast approaching, we get to see the striking display of summertime blooms. Prairies throughout the DuPage preserves may have flowers in bloom from May through October, where you can view new colors almost week to week. August and September are some of the best times to explore prairies because you can see the transitions from bright colors to the rich tones of fall. If you do venture out to your local Preserve to witness these natural wonders this summer, some of the best displays can be viewed at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville, West Chicago Prairie in West Chicago, and Churchill Woods in Glen Ellyn. The District also lets you know that the Poverty Prairie at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien is home to more than 300 native plants, and the Great Western Trail through Timber Ridge Forest Preserve in West Chicago offers its own colorful vistas. At Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn, the trail through the Back 40 features woodland and prairie where yellowish gentian and white snakeroot bloom.

This past season brought out many visitors to enjoy some of our annual District events. On May 12 and 13 the district held its annual Native Plant Sale at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. Here, visitors were able to purchase many flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs to help create the perfect habitat in their backyards. Forest Preserve District plant experts were

on hand to answer many questions, and that they did! Also this year, tips and tricks to attract more butterflies, bees, and other pollinators were discussed. On May 27 families were invited out to have fun at our all-ages Family Field Days, held at St. James Farm. Attendees celebrated the farm's heritage at this annual event featuring equestrian, canine, and sheep-herding demos, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, kids' activities, archery, fishing, and more.

If you didn't make the annual spring events at your local Forest Preserve, don't worry, there is plenty more in store for the summer of 2017. On June 11 you can bring the family to our annual friendly fishing competition just for kids 15 and younger, known as the "Just for Kids" Fishing Derby. It will be held from 8 a.m. till noon. This event has become so popular that we are moving into our 31st year holding it! The event is free, and you can register online or at (630) 933-7248. On June 15, come on out to Kline Creek Farm and join us for an "Evening in the Country," and make sure to pack a picnic dinner to enjoy as



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“Forest Preserve Update” (Continued from page 4)

you relax on the grounds and experience the farm at dusk. Horse-drawn wagon rides begin at 5:30, 6:15, and 7 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult for wagon rides. Admission is free; wagon rides are \$5 per person for ages 5 and up (under 5 free). Registration not required. Please visit our website to view more opportunities to participate in one of our many programs held throughout the week.

Looking to get the kids out of the house this summer? Well, hurry on over and sign them up for some of our many summer day-camp programs. This year at Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook, kids can come out for the week and enjoy camps like Animal Adventures, Bug Buddies, Habitat Hunters, Little Campers, Little Scientist, Animals That Fly, Camp FBW Rocks, Camping Adventures, Earth, Wind, Fire, Water and many more. In Glen Ellyn, have them come out to Willowbrook Wildlife Center where they can enjoy Cold-Blooded Critters Camp, Wildlife Explores, and Animals That Fly. Our equine enthusiasts can join camps like Horse Sense and Riding Sense at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton. New this year, we have a kayak camp being held at Blackwell in Warrenville, Herrick Lake in Wheaton, and Hidden Lake in Downers Grove. Or have your kids come out and join me along with my Ranger friends for the week-long Ranger Adventure Camps held at Herrick Lake in Wheaton or Mayslake in Oak Brook. Here, we'll teach them how to hone their skills in archery, boating, fishing, and hiking, as well as wilderness survival basics. So, send some future outdoors enthusiast on over to hang with us and help us create memories that will last a lifetime. Information for these camps can be accessed through our website.

Throughout the summer you may see District staff along the DuPage river way. That's because the District is excited to continue its contribution, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DuPage County Stormwater Management, to improve conditions in and along the river by creating in-stream habitat, preventing erosion, and improving the waterway's ability to store and handle floodwater. This is being done throughout the year between April and October when the Forest Preserve District will release 9,000 native freshwater mussels along 13 miles of the West Branch DuPage River to serve as water filters.

“We cultivated three native species of the mussels at the Forest Preserve District's Urban Stream

Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville, the only facility of its kind in Illinois,” said Jessi DeMartini, the District's aquatic research center coordinator.

Over these six months, the District will place 9,000 mussels at 11 locations along the West Branch between Gary's Mill Road in Warrenville and 87th Street in Naperville. The goal is to boost natural populations of these animals, which play vital, irreplaceable roles in the overall health of aquatic habitats, in urban waterways.

“Freshwater mussels are what we call a ‘keystone species,’” DeMartini explained. “They may be small, but they have enormous beneficial effects on the lives of other organisms.”

Mussels act as filter feeders by taking in large amounts of water, filtering out bacteria, algae, or decaying plant or animal matter before passing the clean water back into the river. Just one adult mussel can filter more than 18 gallons of water in one day.

“Because mussels often live en masse, together they can filter enough water to lower overall water pollution levels,” DeMartini said.

Freshwater mussels make up the most imperiled group of wildlife in North America. Over a century of manmade changes to rivers have damaged mussels' preferred sand-gravel habitats. Ammonia and other contaminants are life threatening to juveniles, and competition from invasive species like the zebra mussel has further reduced native populations. As a result, of the 297 known species of native freshwater mussels in the U.S., 213 are listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern at federal or state levels. Once home to 80 species, Illinois now has 63; 17 extinct and 23 that are federally or state-listed.

We look forward to seeing you out this summer, just remember to stay hydrated, keep cool, and enjoy summer recreation responsibly. As always, please advise the Forest Preserve District of any concerns through the Forest Preserves 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.

CLEAN POWER TEAM DUPAGE

On May 16, a group of RPG members met at the home of Connie Schmidt for the first face-to-face meeting of the Clean Power Team DuPage. Their mission: Bring more Clean Energy to DuPage County. A number of great ideas were shared, and the resources were amazing, with an installer present, an employee for Cool County DuPage, several engineers, and other interested residents who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help work for clean energy in DuPage County. Pictured below are: Laura Haule and friend John, Andi Dierich, Dan Knotter, Mike Taylorson, Ana Viter, Mike Nicolosi, Leah Boeltch, and Hari Lamba.

The next meeting will take place on June 27 at the Schmidt home in Warrenville. Please email Connie for details or to get involved. Twenstr111@msn.com

Mike Taylorson and Dan Knotter came up with the following summary document, which is still a bit of a draft but has some valuable information to get you started.

You're Interested in Solar Energy – Now What?

You're a DuPage County resident who is interested in installing solar, but you don't know what you

can do, where to find out more information, or how to make a difference.

The River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club has got you covered. This quick summary document outlines some of the key actions you can take to promote the adoption of clean energy, whether it's in your home, your local community, or at the national level.



In Your Home

Investigate switching your home to solar energy

- Check out the viability of your home using Google's Project Sun Roof site
- Review the key decision points in the process, including how much electricity your home might generate and how long it takes a solar installation to pay for itself.
- Learn more about the Federal solar incentives.

At the Local Level

Contact your local and municipal leaders to encourage their support for clean energy initiatives

- Encourage the leaders in your city/town to commit to the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Initiative.
- Support DuPage County's Cool DuPage push to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Share what you learn with your friends, family, and co-workers.
- Join the Sierra Club River Prairie group and the Clean Power team.

At the State Level

Get involved with existing state legislation that involves clean energy, such as the Future Energy Jobs Act

- Learn about the Act.
- Share the act with your friends, family, and co-workers.
- Contact your state representatives and the Governor's office to pledge your support for the Act.
- Contact one of Illinois Solar Association's Solar Ambassadors.

At the Federal Level

Stay up to date on all the clean energy legislation in Washington

- Contact your elected representatives and tell them you support clean energy and the US commitment to the Paris Agreement.
- Learn more about the clean energy work being carried out by national organizations such as the National Resources Defense Council.



Pictured: Monarch Initiative Chair Jan Foster and Monarch Fest Chair Barbara Lonergan show off the Garden Club's educational display at the Elmhurst Public Library.

EGC Monarch Initiative More Than a Decade in the Making

By Jan Foster, Elmhurst Garden Club Member and Monarch Initiative Chair

The Elmhurst Garden Club (EGC) declared 2017 the Year of the Monarch, even though their efforts in monarch conservation have been going strong for over a decade.

The Garden Club was first introduced to the monarch's plight by member Jane Foulser in 2005. Shortly after, they worked alongside Boy, Girl, and Cub Scout troops and Elmhurst Park District employees to plant milkweed plugs in Eldridge Park. In 2007, Eldridge became one of the first local parks to be designated a Certified Monarch Waystation.

Since 2007, a total of 28 Monarch Waystations have been certified in Elmhurst – three more parks maintained by the Elmhurst Park District, seven

schools, Elmhurst College, and First Congregational United Church of Christ.

In April 2016, EGC openly renewed its commitment to the monarch butterfly through the formation of the Monarch Initiative. At the urging of the Garden Club, Elmhurst Mayor Steve Morley signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, promoting community awareness about the need for milkweed and habitat for the monarch.

With six of the pledge's action items already completed, EGC selected six new action items to complete and called on the community to help achieve them. Elmhurst Garden Club provided the Elmhurst Park District with 8300 *asclepias syriaca* and *tuberosa* seeds to be planted at the recently renovated Butterfield Park. Additionally, the Elmhurst Public Works Department will plant approximately 125 milkweed plugs and 500 native, nectar-producing plants in storm-water detention ponds. And at the Garden Club's May 2016 native plant sale, more than 100 milkweed plugs were distributed.

EGC members are consultants to the Garden Club of York Community High School. This past fall, the clubs worked to transplant and expand the but-

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“Monarch Initiative” (Continued from page 7)

terfly-friendly and native pollinator plants in the high school gardens. Today, this area is not only certified as a Monarch Waystation, but is also certified as an environmentally friendly area by The Conservation Foundation, a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, and a pollinator garden by Xerces Society.

In January, the Garden Club worked with DuPage Monarch Project and River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club to co-sponsor the screening of Flight of the Monarch at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition (ECCC), Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC) and Dig Right In Landscaping hosted a February educational presentation on how to Jumpstart Your Natural Lawn Care Plan. The use of harmful pesticides on lawns and gardens affects children, pets, and wildlife. Last year, Cool Cities and MPAC successfully campaigned to get the Elmhurst Park District to select Van Voorst Park as a pesticide-free test site.

Cool Cities, the Elmhurst Public Library, and the Garden Club partnered in March for a presentation on Plight of the Monarchs. More than 80 local residents gathered to hear from The Butterfly Lady, Pat Miller. Miller is a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist,

and a Plant Technician for Morton Arboretum.

The Elmhurst Public Library continued its collaboration with the Monarch Initiative by providing children's programming in April and May.

The culmination of the Elmhurst Garden Club's Monarch Initiative is the July 9 Children's Monarch Fest in Wilder Park. The Fest is held in conjunction with EGC's Garden Walk and Faire, and is co-sponsored by Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, in cooperation with the Elmhurst Park District and the City of Elmhurst. Fest activities include keynote speaker Pat Miller, a live butterfly tent, face painting, be-a-monarch photo-op, make-and-take crafts, milkweed seed giveaways, and educational opportunities. Vendors include Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, DuPage Monarch Project, Natural Communities Native Plants, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners, Elmhurst Public Library, and Elmhurst Cool Cities.

The City of Elmhurst is co-sponsoring the Fest with funding from an Explore Elmhurst City grant. For more information on Fest sponsorship or exhibitor opportunities, contact Barbara Lonergan at 630-426-9789; Garden Walk & Faire, contact Georgia Dolan at 630-530-0776; Monarch Initiative, contact Jan Foster at 630-530-0152.

RPG GOES TO **DC APRIL 29!**

"Marching for action on climate Change in D.C. was a joyful experience," said Connie Schmidt. "Marching together with so many committed environmentalists gives me hope that together we can keep America working to avoid climate catastrophe." Schmidt was one of over 200 Sierrans from Illinois who traveled to Washington D.C. by car, train, plane and in three bus loads for the 300,000 participant People's Climate March on April 29. Sierrans were also among the thousands who participated in Climate Marches in dozens of cities and towns across Illinois."

Pictured: Another side of Connie Schmidt in D.C.





COMING THIS SUMMER: THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

By Ed Stevenson
Acting Executive Director / Director of Golf Operations
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

After two years of extensive renovations, the former Oak Meadows Golf Course property will reopen later this summer with a new look and name. The Oak Meadows transformation was a conservation and recreation project by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage that took 27 holes of flood-prone, 1920s-era golf and transformed them into a “golf preserve.” In harmony with golf, this transformation enhanced natural habitat throughout the property, allowing the District to improve water quality within Salt Creek, increase local flooding relief by 20 million gallons, and create an environmental haven where golfers and non-golfers alike can connect with nature. The project is a model for how open land can benefit the entire community by improving recreational options, storm-water management, and the natural ecology.

The 288-acre property, now renamed as “The

Preserve at Oak Meadows,” will include a world-class 18-hole course that promises to be “high and dry” and free of the flooding issues that hampered operations in the past. The majority of construction was completed before winter, and the greens, tees, fairways, wetlands, and native areas will fill in throughout the spring and early summer. Weather permitting, the Forest Preserve District hopes to announce opening day over the next few weeks as the turf takes hold.

Golf courses traditionally are not environmentally friendly places, but with the restoration to the waterway and addition of natural habitat, the River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club and the DuPage Rivers Salt Creek Work Group are proud of this amenity available soon to golf enthusiasts in DuPage County. For updates, visit dupageforest.org and dupagegolf.com.



REMEMBERING MARK GINGER WEEKEND

By Jan Bradford

March 29th - The Sierra Leaders of the River Prairie Group, Volo Bog, family, and friends did a private tree dedication for Mark Ginger. Steve Savocchi, volunteer at Volo Bog, presented a short speech on the work that Mark had done at Volo by pulling buckthorn (an invasive species) planting shooting stars (spring flowers), and leading weekend tours of the bog itself. We—leaders, family and friends—planted the tree, and a sign was placed near it, which will be replaced with a metal tag on the tree.

March 30th - A hike and potluck meal was offered to everyone as an outing of "Remembering Mark Ginger" in Busse Woods. People also contributed to a fund that will be used to purchase a bench on the River Trail in Lake County. Later on when the work is completed, there will be a Sierra hike on that trail.

Both days were very cold, rainy, and windy, but we had close to 60 people that weekend for "Remembering Mark Ginger." Special thanks to all who made it happen.

Getting to Know Our Volunteers: A Spotlight on Joe Pokorny

In the second of a series of articles about our volunteers, we highlight Joe Pokorny. Joe has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1986. Some might remember a similar article about him in the Sierran written back in 2000. Even then he was a steady, reliable, and generous volunteer—and he has been consistently so ever since. When asking other club volunteers about Joe, I heard a familiar refrain.

According to Frank Orto, ExCom Executive Chair from 1997 to 2009, “Joe Pokorny volunteered to become the Outings Liaison between the RPG Executive Committee and the RPG Outings Committee. Joe eventually became a member of the RPG Executive Committee and continued his role as the Outings Liaison. Joe would attend the meetings of the RPG Executive Committee and also the monthly Outings Committee meetings. I felt that this role Joe performed really helped to improve communication between the two committees.”



Joe continues to help with outings liaison activities, assuring a constant supply of T-shirts and ball caps and other Sierra Club paraphernalia. He reliably continues to help manage our Listservs and certain computer-related things so that you may receive news updates and information, as well as our quarterly newsletters. Joe's behind-the-scenes work may seem unglamorous to some, but as stated by Lonnie Morris, another former ExCom Chair, he has been “essential to the smooth, orderly operation of the RPG.” Ditto to that!

RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP ELECTIONS

The River Prairie Group is looking for passionate Group members who want to run for a position on the Group Executive committee. The “Ex-Com” sets the budget, programs, and priorities for the local group. They also network with other groups in DuPage with like minded agendas.

If you feel called to this exciting role and want to help with the leadership of the RPG, contact Jeff Gahris (jgahris@gmail.com), chair of the nominating committee for application information and to discuss the responsibilities of this critical and enriching volunteer role. (Phone - 630 853 5505)

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

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 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**

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 - [\[stns1@aol.com\]\(mailto:stns1@aol.com\). 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.](mailto:rln-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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.

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.

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/geother-

mal 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 for sign up. Cost: \$5

Kayak or Canoe the Scenic Kishwaukee River

Sat, July 15, 9AM–4:30PM

202 Walnut St, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Kayak or Canoe the scenic Kishwaukee River, Rockford IL.

The Kish maintains a class "A" rating from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources making it one of the three highest water quality river systems in the state. It has often been described as a "unique aquatic resource comparable to a stream without human disturbance".

Cost: for canoe, \$30 per person; for solo kayak, \$35; for tandem kayak, \$30 per person; for private boat, \$5. For those renting a canoe or kayak, cost includes kayak/canoe, paddle and life jacket rentals, and Sierra Club and River Prairie Group fees.

Celebrate the Solar Eclipse with a Weekend of Hikes in the Shawnee Nat'l Forest

Fri, Aug 18, 3:00PM–Tues, Aug 22, 4:00PM

Giant City Rd, South of 13, (Carbondale, IL)

Our hikes will be shared with fellow Sierrans from the Shawnee region of So. Il, and together we will visit a few spectacular sites within the national forest: Belle Smith Springs on Saturday and Sunday at Larue Pine Hills: (the famous snake road, large limestone bluffs, vast wetlands- E.O. Wilson refers to this area as an 'Ecological hotspot', with many divergent habitats mingling.

And on Monday, we will be a part of this rare event- a total solar eclipse beginning late AM at Giant City S. P. Plan to be done with most activities by mid- afternoon Monday.

S.P.. CAMPING OPTIONS AT NEARBY AT GIANT CITY CAMPGROUNDS (independent) or local hotels.

On August 21, 2017, Southern Illinois will become the eclipse crossroads of America. Carbondale is the closest city to the longest point of duration for the eclipse and there will be all sorts of activities across the region to commemorate this historic event.

Please fill out the sign up online, and sign waiver or Contact Ed @ Hortusmax@gmail.com

Bicycle on Washington Island WI

Fri, Sep 15, 4PM–Sun, Sep 17, 6PM

Weekend bicycling on scenic and mainly flat and traffic free roads of Washington Island, Door County, WI. We will be staying in a family run resort on the island with lake views from every room. Activities include BBQ on arrival Friday night and enjoying local restaurants for meals. Two days of touring the island by bicycle visiting local museums, beaches, and other attractions. This outing requires you to catch a late afternoon ferry to the island which requires a Friday morning departure from the Chicago area. Option available to stay over until Monday for additional charge. Participants should be able to handle a 25 mile bicycle tour with stops.

Level: Easy(mod pace few hills light traffic).

Cost: Approximately \$160 double occupancy.

Advance Payment required.

Signup Instructions: Please call Mike Davis at 815-331-3042 for additional details and to sign up.

Bring: Well tuned bicycle with spare tube.





Fermilab Natural Areas Needs You!

By Rita Dolan
Secretary, Fermilab Natural Areas Board of Directors

Fermilab has more than 2600 acres of restored areas—nearly 1000 acres of tallgrass prairie plus hundreds of acres of woodland, oak savanna, and wetland! These areas include natural corridors and greenways (such as streams, trails, utility rights-of-way and unused railroad rights-of-way) that are essential in linking larger patches of habitat. The Fermilab prairie restoration has connected fragmented woodlands and remnant wetlands to create large, core areas for nature.

These natural areas also support and conserve unique landscape features, endangered and threatened species, and significant habitat and resources

for pollinators. As these habitats improve, more birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects appear. Some interesting species that have been seen at Fermilab include the southern flying squirrel, Eastern gray tree-frog, smooth green snake, sandhill cranes, osprey, and rusty patch bumblebee.

You may visit the natural areas at Fermilab by driving, riding your bike, or walking through the Pine Street entrance in Batavia or the Batavia Road entrance in Warrenville. If you drive, you will be asked to stop at the guard house to tell them what area(s) you plan to visit and to present a photo ID. You may ask the guard for a guide map or you can find one

at our website. The Fermilab site is open to the public every day of the week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November to March, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. the rest of the year.

Some of the areas that are open to the public include the following:

- Margaret Pearson Interpretive Trail (through the prairie) leads to the Big Woods Trail
- The nature areas around Lake Law and A.E. Sea (Great bird watching! You can start at the red barn on Sauk Circle south of Batavia Rd.)
- The nature areas around DUSAF Pond Shorebird Area and the Nepese Marsh Trail
- The bison pasture - there are pull-offs on Batavia road or near the red barn.
- The dog training area has several trails.
- Lederman Science Education Center pond and path (Many of the walks and volunteer activities begin here.) Look for dragonflies in the summer!
- Wilson Hall (An art gallery is on the 2nd floor, and there are lookout windows on the 15th floor.)

Some areas are not open to the public except by appointment or on special occasions, such as the fall seed harvests.

Volunteers of all experience levels are crucial to conducting the restoration work needed to maintain and conserve Fermilab's natural areas. We are

currently looking for workday volunteers; stewards (volunteers who commit to long-term regular work in an area that they have adopted, training provided); monitors for butterflies, moths, lichen, moss, and aquatic plants; and people who are interested in joining the board of directors or assisting on a committee (e.g., grant writing or event planning). Volunteering is a great opportunity to experience nature, to learn about native plants and wildlife, and to make big improvements in the natural areas!

Fermilab Natural Areas (FNA) is an Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (independent from Fermilab) whose mission is to conserve, restore and study the natural areas within Fermilab while encouraging employees and neighbors to experience and enjoy Fermilab's natural beauty. FNA's main functions are to recruit and organize volunteers; perform environmental research; organize educational events; and raise funds to assist in ecological restoration and monitoring. We work closely with Fermilab's Roads and Grounds crew and its Ecological Land Management Committee. Fermilab and FNA co-host many educational tours and talks that are open to the public, such as walks to observe and learn about wildflowers, butterflies, birds, bees, and dragonflies.

You can learn more about FNA at our website, fermilabnaturalareas.org, where you may sign up for our newsletter. You may send an email to fermilabnaturalareas@gmail.com; "Like" us on Facebook; follow us on Instagram; or call and leave a message at 630-840-4845. We look forward to hearing from you!

Photo credits: Fermilab Creative Services.





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

Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 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

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