



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran

Summer 2020, Vol 3, No. 2



Jeff's Jots

Since the last newsletter, we have heard a lot of bad news starting with the pandemic and economic shutdown, political tension, a shortage of certain basic necessities, extreme

climate change, and even an invasion of “murder hornets.” In short, our resilience and sense of security have been sorely tested. We can take some measure of hope from the fact that this country has been through this before, in 1918, and yet, we bounced back. I am hopeful that all is well with you during this time.

This spring, River Prairie Group’s meetings, outings, and even our Springfield lobbying efforts, came to a sudden halt. For now, in the interest of being prepared for becoming engaged in the Clean Energy Movement in DuPage when we are able, check out Connie Schmidt’s article below, where there is a link to ask for more information. Also, see Ed Max’s description of wildflowers at West Chicago Prairie nature preserve if you wish to get outside, or consider the restoration of Spring Brook (viewable from a trail in St James Farm), as described below by Scott Meister of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage.

We can stay engaged with our national leadership to press for greener and more socially fair options in resetting our economy, and to be prepared to engage Springfield leaders when the opportunity arises (also watch our Facebook page and web site for any news). For now, of course, taking care of family, friends, and neighbors is paramount.

If you have any questions or concerns, or simply want to be in touch, feel free to contact me at dupagesierran@gmail.com. Meanwhile, be well and stay safe.



CEJA - The Clean Energy Jobs Act and What is Going on Now?

By Connie Schmidt

The Clean Energy Jobs Act is our solution to many issues involving the transition away from fossil fuels here in Illinois. In 2016, the Sierra Club along with other enviros AND clean energy industry AND several utilities all worked together to pass The Future Energy Jobs Act. That started the real transition here in Illinois. Now we have introduced the CEJA and are trying to at least quadruple the effect of the previous law as well as add some new benefits to workers and citizens, such as...

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Hike West Chicago Prairie

By Ed Max

If you've never been to the **West Chicago Prairie**, consider a trip there soon. It's a good time of year for hiking prairies and grasslands, as the vegetation is still manageable and vistas are great.

West Chicago Prairie is a remnant prairie; much of it is intact and has never been tilled under or destroyed, thus making it one of the best-quality black-soil remnant prairies left in our area. (Sadly, only 1.5% of native prairies remain in Illinois.)

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Spring Brook Restoration Update

*By Scott Meister,
Forest Preserve
District of DuPage*

In 2019, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County embarked on the second phase of stream restoration along Spring Brook creek as it flows through Wheaton and Warrenville. The two-year project, currently underway within Blackwell Forest Preserve, ...

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