

DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

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Clean Energy Lobby Day

by Jeff Gahris

When standing in a group of 500 clean energy champions under the capitol dome, I felt a surge of both excitement and gratitude for being part of strong democratic movement. Advocates for clean energy arrived from all over the state and met with 100 legislators, but this is a story about one of the teams from DuPage County.

About 19 of us met with State Senator Suzy Glowiak and Representative Deanne Mazzochi. In our discussions with these legislators, we gained new insight into the complexities of downstate v. Chicago area politics, and the difficulties involved in bringing all the key players to the table and negotiating a solution as we had so successfully done with the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). Now that the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition has withdrawn from negotiating with Exelon due to an emerging corruption scandal, there is a hint of a new opportunity for skeptical legislators to look at the current bill, the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA), more favorably. As of this writing, the legislation does not appear to be passing during veto session, but we are looking forward to another try at reintroducing a clean energy bill for the next legislative session. New legislation is needed to boost incentives so that Illinois can meet its ambitious goal of 100% clean energy by 2050 and decarbonizing the electrical grid by 2030. Time is of the essence!



Butterflies at the Bolingbrook Golf Club

by Julianna Gerdes

While the thought of playing a round of golf at Bolingbrook Golf Club may bring butterflies to your stomach, Bolingbrook's meticulous greens and perfectly pinstriped fairways offer more than just the familiar feeling of excitement. Though numerous types of butterflies find a home on the course, Bolingbrook takes special pride in their extensive monarch butterfly population.

The monarch butterfly population has drastically declined over the past twenty years...

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RPG Apprentice Makes Her Mark

By Linda Sullivan

“Dynamo” is how Illinois Chapter Chair Connie Schmidt described her. River Prairie Group Chair Jeffrey Gahrns noted her poise. RPG was blessed to have apprentice Emilee Chaclas assigned to help organize support for the Clean Energy Jobs Act in DuPage County this fall.

Ms. Chaclas was one of seven apprentice organizers hired and deployed strategically throughout the state as a result of a grant to Illinois Sierra Club from Green Tech Action Fund...

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Leadership by the Illinois Chapter Results in Landmark Resolution: Moving to Unite Immigrant Rights with Climate Action Now

By Connie Schmidt

In late summer, the Il Chapter Executive Committee voted to present a resolution at the National Council of Club Leaders regarding the Sierra Club's responsibility to support migrants against the inhumane treatment happening at our borders and in our cities. In September the following was presented and voted with overwhelming support at the Council:

The Council of Club Leaders requests that the Board of Directors, recognizing the critical intersections between climate and migration issues, endorse policies that support respect, dignity, and liberation for migrants, including: abolishing Immigrations Customs Enforcement (ICE), decriminalizing migration, reuniting all separated families, and halting the deportation of people not convicted of violent crimes.

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River Prairie Group Partners with Immigrant Solidarity DuPage to Improve Monarch Butterfly Habitat

By Bruce Blake

Last year, our River Prairie Group and Immigrant Solidarity DuPage landscaped and planted a Monarch Butterfly garden with native plants at the Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights. The native plants that were used would attract, provide nectar, and allow Monarchs to lay eggs on milkweed. The Monarchs have been declining for many years through loss of habitat. Milkweed is the ...

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In Case You Missed It - Here Are Some Programs From the Fall of 2019

A Ferry Forest Garden Tour

In September, Jodi Trendler of the Resiliency Institute led a stroll and interpretive walk through the permaculture garden on Ferry Road just west of Rt. 59. This area demonstrates how communities can replace right of way lawns with public permaculture forest gardens, creating an edible park that grows food security and regenerates ecosystems. Our members were encouraged to taste, smell and touch the edible plants in this amazing space. Jodi prepared a delicious Lemon Balm tea for all to taste as the sun set.

See "Wild Utah" and "What Lies Upstream"

Contact Your Elected Representatives

Locate your representatives here



Jeff's Joys

I trust you found something worth reading in this newsletter this quarter. Our movement is alive and well in these times of uncertainty about the future of our society and the human species as a whole. We are moving forward on several fronts. Note our strategic push for a clean energy agenda in Illinois, making it a just and morally right transition. Our recent participation with other organizations in the Clean Energy Lobby Day in Springfield is a testament to the groundswell of public support and activism. Think of it – 500 people took a day off to rally in the capitol building and to meet with their elected representatives!

As you can see from our summary of recent program meetings, we also strive to host engaging programs for learning and exploring environmental issues, serving to facilitate individual and collective action to protect the environment. A good example is our screening of the documentary film *What Lies Upstream*, after which we discussed the quality of our waterways in DuPage County and our river and lake monitoring program. If you haven't attended a meeting lately, we hope you can catch one in 2020.

Although our work is hard and important, we do take time off to enjoy the natural world. Let's remember to sign up for a River Prairie Group outing, or simply take a walk in the woods, perhaps at a nearby forest preserve. Wishing you warm holidays and an exciting new year!

Last Word

"The question that *must* be addressed ... is not how to care for the planet, but how to care for each of the planet's millions of human and natural neighborhoods, each of its millions of small parcels of land, each one of which is in some precious way different from all of the others."

-Wendell Berry



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



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