



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran, Winter 2020

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Jeff's Jots

For many of us, 2020 is the year that needs to end, and I hope this newsletter finds you well. Despite everything, some good things have happened. Zoom has helped keep us together. For example, we had a huge lobby day rally and lobby meeting turnout with legislators (see article below by Connie Schmidt). We also organized an informative on-line meeting with Congressman Casten about climate legislation.

We can celebrate the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's decision to remove the dam on Salt Creek in Fullersburg Woods (see article below by Deana Doohaluk). Recent dam removals and stream restoration efforts have shown that we only need to do a few basic things, and nature, being resilient as it is, does the rest.

Our social and political systems, even democracy itself, can be more fragile. I am happy that several Sierra Club endorsed candidates had successful elections, including myself. Sierra Club has a big impact! Thank you for your role in getting good people elected. More work needs to be done, and we need your help (see interest survey below).

For mental and physical health, consider winter hikes. They are invigorating and safe with masks, winter gear, and good hiking boots. Check out the Spring Brook restorations at Blackwell and St. James Farm. Also, our January 17 program meeting should be most inspirational (see article below).

Although our society can be fragile, I am optimistic that we will get through the challenges posed by COVID-19. I am so much looking forward to a better 2021 as we work tirelessly for our environment!



Riding In and About DuPage

By Connie Schmidt

We're BAAAAACK, as they say! Programs with the RPG will begin again with 2021, so mark your calendars now for **Sunday January 17 at 2:00 pm** for our first one. It will be even easier to join us with Zoom from the comfort of your own home. Of course, we will miss seeing our friends in person, but we will love having community once again virtually. **More...**



River Prairie Group Supports Virtual Lobby Day

No doubt many of you now reading these words were among the 1000 folks who signed up to lobby for CEJA, The Clean Energy Jobs Act, on November 12. There were exactly 1000 because the registration system could handle no more, and they shut down after that number! Incredible! Last year we were blown away with the buses from across the state bringing crowds to the capital that totaled around 700. CEJA is even more important now, as evidenced by the turnout this year. **More...**



Salt Creek Wins!

By Deanna Doohaluk

On October 6, 2020, in a 5-2 vote, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) Board of Commissioners voted to allow the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) to implement the Master Plan for Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods. The Concept Master Plan includes the removal of the Graue Mill dam, intensive stream restoration along 1.2 miles of Salt Creek, and addition of recreational and educational amenities at the Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. The work will also include provisions to maintain the mill's raceway and power the waterwheel. [More...](#)



DuPage Monarch Project Supporters

Are you planting milkweed for monarchs?

Thank you for being awesome!

You're one of the caring people protecting the beautiful monarch.

[Tell us what you're doing for monarchs](#)

we'll send you a FREE DuPage Monarch Project sticker.



RPG Releases Water Quality Monitoring Report

The RPG released their latest report on the quality of streams in DuPage County. The report, “DuPage County’s Rivers-A System on the Mend,” illustrates water quality monitoring done by the group and puts it in context of other work in DuPage River and Salt Creek watersheds and the rest of the state of Illinois. [More...](#)



Looking to Get More Involved?

By Jeff Gahris

Admittedly, COVID-19 has challenged us to be more creative as a group. Go to our [Google form](#) for volunteer opportunities to make Illinois a greener and cleaner place for all. We have both short term and longer range opportunities. Check out our list of ideas below:

Clean Energy – Join a lobby team, participate in DuPage Clean Energy Coalition education & advocacy, write letters to the editor, make calls and send emails to elected officials to promote clean energy and transportation legislation

in Illinois. Clean energy is our urgent priority!

DuPage Monarch Project – Join this award-winning team and promote monarchs in your community.

Membership – Reach out to Sierra Club members and friends, and the public.

Natural area restoration – Remove invasive plants and collect seeds. (On hold for now due to COVID-19)

Outings – This is on hold for now, but watch website calendar for great opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with others.

Programs – Suggest engaging speakers for future program meetings; design materials to help promote our programs.

Social Equity – Help us find ways to engage various communities in DuPage as we work for environmental justice.

Water team – Conduct water sampling at DuPage streams, explore emerging issues that threaten our water.

Join Sierra Club – Not a member yet? See our [membership form](#).

Sign up [here](#) for a meaningful experience with the River Prairie Group!

GET OUTSIDE

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

 Facebook

Follow us on Facebook for news, events and updates on the work we do to keep our communities green!

Donate to Sierra Club Illinois Today!