



Sauk-Calumet Group

February 2020 Newsletter Volume 39, Issue 1

SAUK-CALUMET SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENTS

By Kathy Van Kampen



The Sierra Club has endorsed Marie Newman as the Democratic candidate for the United States House of Representatives for the Illinois' 3rd District. Newman is challenging incumbent Congressman Dan Lipinski, who, to date, is declining to debate her. “The Sierra Club is committed to promoting a safe, clean energy future built on energy efficiency, clean energy, and American innovation. We believe that Marie Newman shares this commitment and that she will be a passionate and effective champion of the environmental movement in Congress,” said Lois Lauer, Sauk-Calumet Group Chair. “Marie understands that the status quo is not enough, and that the time to act to ensure a healthy environment for future generations is now. Marie’s mission is to create an economy that works for everyone that is built on 100% clean energy and dignified work, not exploitation and fossil fuels. We know she will fight hard and trust her to build a better future for voters in Illinois’ Third District and across the country.” Visit [MarieNewmanforCongress](#) for more information about Newman’s platform.

U.S. Congressman Bill Foster (IL11th) is also endorsed by Sierra Club. Bill Foster, a physicist, has long sponsored environmental legislation and successfully helped add funding to the EPA in the 2020 budget. He is a co-sponsor of the 100% Clean Energy Act of 2019.

MWRD – The Illinois Sierra Club has also endorsed Kimberly Neely DuBuclet and Cameron Davis for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Both have strong environmental credentials.

Nature Sundays Nature Walks Coming

By Pat Coffey



Lois Lauer and Pat Coffey on the Mt. Baldy Hike

With so much dark and gloom this winter, most of us are waiting anxiously for spring to arrive. Never fear, we're cooking up some Nature Sundays adventures even as you're reading this! Rafi Wilkinson, the park ranger who gave us such an insightful talk at the Indiana Dunes National Park's Mount Baldy, will be back. He will be showing us the Heron Rookery at the Dunes which has a wonderful display of spring wildflowers. Another hike in the works will be a trip down to the Champaign-Rantoul area where we will see some cemetery prairies, small areas preserved from the plow because they were the cemeteries of the pioneers who first settled in the area. Then again, we are also looking into hikes that will focus specifically on birds or insects. We'll let you know when all this comes together! Keep your eyes peeled for Nature Sundays' announcements in your email's inbox, our [website](#) or the Chapter calendar may also publicize. We'll see you soon!

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Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program: Sauk - Calumet Chapter Water Testing

By Christy Mazrimas-Ott



Dorelle Ackermann at Beaubien Woods

From the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels website, <https://www.sierraclub.org/water-sentinels> The National Water Sentinels Grassroots Network team envisions a world where the quality and quantity of water in our rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and aquifers are protected and are managed to sustain the ecosystems on which all life depends. We serve to engage and connect Sierra Club water activists across the Nation.

Why the Sierra Club focuses on waterways?

To protect and fully implement the Clean Water Act

To advocate for access to clean and affordable drinking water

To advocate for responsible ecological management of our surface and ground waters

To advocate for legislation that fully protects our waters and holds polluters accountable

To connect people with their waterways by conducting local water quality testing and monitoring (our legacy "Water Sentinels" program)

To expose and oppose activities that damage the integrity of our Nation's waters

To inform and educate the public and influence decision makers

To engage in grassroots activism for sound local and national water policies

The Sauk - Calumet Sierra Club has been doing water sample testing at the following sites along the Little Calumet River: Beaubien Woods' boat launch in Chicago and the Sunset Bay Marina boat docks at Torrence Avenue & 136th Street in Chicago. Dorelle Ackermann and I have been collecting samples here since September 2019. Dorelle has also been collecting samples for the Sauk - Calumet Chapter along Hickory Creek at the following sites: Marley Road and Hickory Creek Woods (Route 30 east of Wolf) and on the DuPage River at the following sites: McEvelly Road in Minooka and the Pedestrian Bridge in Shorewood by Route 52 and Route 59. The sample collecting is done at least once a month year-round. The water to be

Sauk Calumet Sierra Club Group Meetings Schedule

Meetings are held at 7:15 pm on the second Monday of every month at the Frankfort Library (21119 Pfeiffer Rd, Frankfort, IL) with the exception of June, July and August. All meetings are free and open both to Sierra Club members and to the public.



February 10: A Brief History of the Sierra Club

Sauk Calumet Chair Lois Lauer will talk and show slides about the origins and evolution of the Sierra Club, as it grew from a California mountaineering club in 1892 to a national organization today, dedicated not just to enjoying and exploring the planet, but also to protecting it.



March 9: Geology of Illinois State Parks

Dr. Max Reams, professor emeritus of Olivet Nazarene University, will speak about the geology of Illinois' most prestigious natural areas, a topic about which he has authored a book.



April 13: 2020 Illinois Environmental Legislative Issues

Sierra Club Conservation Organizer Ann Baskerville will enlighten us about the most important environmental legislation before the Illinois State legislature this spring, and how we can be involved in promoting its passage.



May 11: Conservation@Home!

Laurie Martin from the University of Illinois Extension South Suburban Master Gardener Program will discuss how we can make earth-conscious choices to make our yards environmentally friendly for native trees, flowers, and wildlife.

No meetings in June, July, or August

Letters to the Editor:

Letters on content within the Sauk-Calumet newsletter should be sent to the editor at:

sc-editor@illinois.sierraclub.org

Please include your full name and address and reference the article on which you are commenting.

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The Sierra Club from the national level down to the local groups does so many positive things to help protect our planet. So, let's get out there and enjoy our beautiful world. Click below for Sierra Club Illinois outings.



Remember to check our Sauk-Calumet Group website for current information and news updates on issues relevant to Illinois.

[Click here for our website.](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubSaukCalumet/>

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