

Calumet Bike Park in Big Marsh

by Sharon Rolek, Conservation Liaison- Calumet Region



Mayor Rahm Emanuel (at podium), 10th Ward Alderman John A. Pope, Illinois State Senator Donne Trotter, Illinois Representative Thaddeus M. Jones, Chicago Park District General Superintendent Michael Kelly, Southeast Environmental Task Force President Tom Shepherd, and SRAM Vice President of Product and Marketing, Mike Mercuri participated in a media announcement at Southeast Chicago's Big Marsh on July 31, 2014. Part of the Millennium Reserve, and now owned by the Chicago Park District, the former industrial property has been designated as Big Marsh Park which is projected to become an urban wilderness redevelopment of national significance. The Calumet Bike Park at Big Marsh is to be the cornerstone of its eco-recreation plan. It will be modeled after the popular and successful Valmont Bike Park in Boulder, Colorado.

See a full video at http://youtube/5W_VEG7UURO

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Legislative Update

By Mary Lubertozzi, Political Education Chair

We ended the Illinois General Assembly session with some wins and some losses this year according to reports from Jack Darin.

The win column included the defeat of an attempt to gut the power of IDNR to write regulations covering the fracking industry, which attempted to derail the public comment process in place. Also, attempts to fund development of the proposed Illiana Expressway did not succeed.

Bills that passed with Sierra Club support included SB 3049 that adds the Gray Wolf, American Black Bear and Cougar to the list of protected species under the Wildlife Code. Also, a bill passed to authorize up to \$30 million from the Renewable Energy Resources Fund for a one-time solar energy procurement to create jobs, jumpstart our solar industry and reduce air pollution. In addition, a clean water bill passed.

On the loss side was a failure to pass the no-cost fix to ratepayers for the Renewable Energy Standard (RPS), that would help ensure that renewable energy development, responsible for more than 20,000 jobs since 2007, continues.

Endorsements for General Election 2014

Endorsements for the fall election are not fully complete, but we can announce that Al Riley, D-38, an incumbent state representative who has been a strong supporter of environmental issues, has been endorsed. Also, Robin Kelly, U.S. Representative for the Illinois 2nd District, has been endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Green Living

A new addition to the Sauk-Calumet Newsletter - tips about living "green"

Christy Mazrimas Ott would like readers to know about Jansmas Farmstand and Garden Center. Starting September 1, the owners are making a conscious decision to stop placing the produce purchased at their farmstand in plastic bags. There has been talk about eliminating plastic bags in the city of Chicago, so the Jansma family decided to be proactive and take action now. Jansmas Farmstand has re-usable bags to purchase and they have been saving cardboard boxes for their customers' use. Christy is a loyal customer and hopes that the rest of the Farmstand customers will get on board and join in reducing their carbon footprint.



Jansmas Farmstand & Garden Center is located at 3033 Ridge Road in Lansing, Illinois 60438.

ShareFest 2014

Mark your calendar for the Will County ShareFest Reuse and Recycling event of Saturday, September 13. This is a one-stop recycling event where you can drop off foam plastic (Styrofoam®), scrap wood, scrap metal, and electronics. Goodwill will be collecting clothing, textiles and home goods. Will County will also be on hand to collect Household Hazardous Waste.

There will be a book drive and a food drive too. Donations of books will go to a local hospital or the Reading Tree, and food donations will benefit the Food Pantry.

Although featured as a recycling event, a Job Fair, Health Fair and "more" are also scheduled

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Spencer Trail School
1701 Spencer Road
New Lenox, IL

Phone: 815-717-2614

For more information or to volunteer to help at ShareFest, visit <http://www.willcountygreen.com>

For information on Sierra Club's Cool Cities program, go to <http://illinoiscoolcities.org/>

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.

**Sauk-Calumet Group
People You Should Know**

Steve Baker Outings	815-485-5273
Pat Coffey* ExCom Rep. / Publicity	708-720-2725
John Field* Treasurer / Web Site	630-852-8202
Connie Heinrich Newsletter	815-476-6171
Jerry Heinrich Midewin Liaison	815-476-6171
Georganne Higgins* Membership	815-936-9040
Lois Lauer* Chair / Programs	708-923-1550
Mary Lubertozzi* Political Education	708-747-1359
Christy Mazrimas Ott* Cool Cities	708-825-4163
Sharon Rolek Conservation Liaison, Calumet Region	773-646-0990
Bob Schwaan* Vice-Chair	630-243-0305
Rich Treptow Publications, Climate Change Liaison	708-747-0649

*Denotes an elected member of the Executive Committee

Sauk-Calumet Program Schedule

Meetings are held at 7:15 p.m. on the second Monday of every month.

PLEASE NOTE: THE REMAINING 2014 MEETINGS WILL NOT BE HELD AT THE FRANKFORT LIBRARY. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY E-MAIL OF FUTURE MEETING LOCATIONS OR YOU CAN CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION.

Sept. 8 John Muir's Legacy

We'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a wonderful documentary about the life and work of Sierra Club founder, John Muir.

Oct. 13 Colorado!

Photographers Dan Morley and Rick Steffen will show photos of wildlife and scenery high in the Rocky Mountains.

Nov. 10 How to Help our Urban Streams

Jennifer Hammer of the Conservation Foundation will discuss the ecological restoration of our urban streams.

Dec. 8 Alaska!

Gregg and Christy Mazrimas-Ott will show pictures and tell of their adventures in wild Alaska, including their explorations of Anchorage, Denali, the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island and Afognak Island.

Jan. 12 Member's Slide Night

Calling all members! Please bring slides (film or digital images) or prints of your latest outdoor experience, be it a grand adventure on the other side of the world or the beautiful butterflies of your own backyard. Call Lois Lauer at 708-923-1550 if you have slides to share.