



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran

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Chatter from the Chair

By Connie Schmidt

Hello my fellow River Prairie Group members,
This month begins the decision-making process for our 2024 elections in November as the primaries descend on us March 19. Please do your research and look for the candidates that will represent best environmental practices for all. An article in this issue gives you links for any information about the options for casting your vote.

We had two wonderful programs already this year. In January, Deanna Dohaluk and Stephen McCracken from the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup gave us a detailed look at the immense amount of work involved from brainstorming to acquiring permits to see the Fullersburg Dam removed at Graue Mill. Wow – over 15 years to fruition, but a healthier stream and riparian zone, while maintaining the historical aspects of the mill, are now preserved for future generations.

[More...](#)



Calling all DuPage County residents (and beyond)! If you are over 18, please be sure that you are registered to vote, you look over the candidates closely, and then you vote. The Illinois Primary election for both federal and state candidates is:

March 19, 2024

Of course, there are several ways you can vote, including in person on March 19, absentee, and early voting. Details are available [here](#).

[More...](#)



The Future of Our Planet (Part 2)

By Dan Schmidt

The first North American Agrivoltaics Conference, Solar Farm Summit 2023, was an amazing display of what is happening and what is possible around the world.

There are two broad categories of Agrivoltaics: Solar First and Food First. [More...](#)



Meet Wendy

By *Connie Schmidt*

The River Prairie Group of Sierra Club is very happy to welcome Wendy Vernon to its Executive Committee. Not only has Wendy joined the Ex-Com, but she also volunteered to act as secretary, already taking minutes at our January meeting. That's kinda like "jumping into the deep end of the pool before dipping your toe in to check the temperature"!

To introduce you to Wendy, let me tell you a recent fun fact. This fall, Wendy and Roger took their only child, Jenny, to PARIS for her birthday. What a terrific, exciting opportunity they provided for their family to share. Daughter Jenny is still sharing amazing photos of the adventure with friends on Facebook. What memories they created. [What a great way to immerse yourself with a passion!](#) [More...](#)



The Dark Sky

On March 27, Adam Kreuzer will present on the consequences of outdoor light pollution and what we can do to preserve our natural night skies. His presentation will focus on how light pollution adversely affects migrating birds, our other wildlife friends and our personal health. Please join us for this exciting presentation!

Adam is a Delegate for DarkSky International and a founder of its Chicago Chapter, DarkSky Chicago @ www.IDAChicago.org.

Details [here](#).



cypress at Heron pond

Springtime in Shawnee National Forest

Join us April 11 – April 14, 2024

If you have never experienced the wonder of Southern Illinois, this is the opportunity for you! We are looking forward to hiking and exploring southern Illinois in the Shawnee National Forest over this long spring weekend. Hikes will include the infamous Snake Road, which should be loaded with wildflowers (and a few snakes just waking from hibernation) at the ecologically rich LaRue Pine Hills. In addition, the group will have a day of exploring the Cache River area wetlands, plus a hike through the awesome trails and bluffs at Giant City State Park.

[More details...](#)



Making the Transition to Electric School Buses

On **Monday, March 11th**, join PowerForward DuPage, local school districts, municipal and community leaders, and healthcare professionals, at the historic Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook as we discuss fleet electrification solutions and the positive economic and health benefits associated with transitioning to electric school buses.

The event is from 7:30am – 9:30am and includes a light breakfast and the opportunity to tour one of the buses in Lion Electric's fleet.

[More details and registration...](#)



Make Your Garden Come Alive With Native Plants

Would you like to have a garden that comes alive with color? A garden that teams with birds, butterflies, and nature? Maybe you have an artistic side and would like to show it in your garden?

Sierra Club's River Prairie Group will show you how you can use native plants in your home garden. Prairie Wind Native Plant Nursery will show you the many plants you can put in your garden that will make it stand out and be a healthy habitat for native pollinators as well.

Join us on April 24, 7:00 pm, at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, 800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn. We will have pictures of native gardens and suggestions from many people who have grown and used natives in their landscaping. There will be some free native plants to take home.

Questions? Bruce Blake – 630-220-3625
PrairieWindNatives.com

[Register here.](#)




IPP Trail Cleanup



APRIL 27, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

The River Prairie Group has adopted one mile of the Illinois Prairie Path as it runs through Glen Ellyn to clean up once a year. The first time we did it, there were many, many bags of heavy discarded waste. Each year, it seems there are somewhat less which is heartening as the clean-up efforts are working and folks are more conscious of “carry in – carry out” when bringing snacks along the trail. It is still a great opportunity to meet some fellow Sierra Club members, take a short morning hike, and feel useful to the environment.

[Details and registration.](#)




 and
 

Together Present:

Healthy Communities - Our Water and Watersheds

Join us for a 90-min presentation featuring four regional experts to learn about our relationship with water and watersheds in Illinois and DuPage County.

Wednesday, April 24 • 7 pm • SCARCE & Virtually

In partnership with



Registration information for Healthy Communities is found [here](#).



More Exciting Events

March 17 - At 11:00 am, the Midwest SOARRING Foundation is hosting a native American spring solstice observance at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve.

April 20 - Downers Grove North Outdoor Environmental Club "Tree-Plenish" tree planting is asking for support and volunteers. See details [here](#).

May 4 - Growin' Green Garden Market at SCARCE. [Details](#).

Volunteer opportunity: short-term help needed with our use of Blogger. If experienced with blogging, please contact Jeff Gahris at jgahris@gmail.com.

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!](#)