



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran

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Chatter From the Chair

It takes about a month for us to get the newsletter articles collected and edited, and several rounds of proofreading and layout before it hits your inbox. MUCH gratitude goes to our committee of several Ex-Com members who brainstorm the subjects, Sherry Stratton our editor, Jeff Gahrns our layout editor, and Peter Chung, Chapter staff, who sends it along to you. I mention this because the photo included here is from the MONTH-long Earth Day celebrations in April (yes, old news), but boy, RPG was EVERYWHERE! We spread the word at SCARCE, several Park District celebrations, Forest Preserve Events, you name it. It was great to see the interest in our work regarding clean energy, stream monitoring, election endorsements, informative programs, and one favorite topic, increasing and preserving healthy habitats for all creatures, especially our pollinators, with news of the DuPage Monarch Project.

[More about this issue...](#)



Glacial Ridge - A Gem in Glen Ellyn

Glacial Ridge Forest Preserve, **part of the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County's many preserves**, lies south of the main section of Churchill Woods. It is located west of Hill Avenue and Longfellow Avenue in Glen Ellyn, just along the Illinois Prairie Path. To access it, users must walk past a children's playground and cross the Illinois Prairie Path.

[There's more to the story...](#)



Pollinator News

By Lonnie Morris

Did you hear the BUZZ? At Phillips Park Zoo, **2022 is the Year of the Pollinator!**

To kick off their new pollinator conservation initiatives, the zoo will be hosting the City of Aurora's very first **Aurora Pollinator Festival** in honor of National Pollinator Week on Saturday, June 25th 1 pm – 6pm.

The festival will include a pop-up farmers market, food trucks, a beer garden, a plant sale, milkweed giveaways, children's activities, educational presentations, live demonstrations of pollinator conservation action steps, pollinator host plant tours in the park, a visit from the Aurora Public Library Bookmobile, and more!

- Discover the wildly wonderful world of pollinators at the learning fair with hands-on activities and live demonstrations.
- Explore the flavors of pollinator-powered foods at a pop-up farmer's market, beer garden, and food trucks.
- Learn about pollinator conservation initiatives, gardening projects, and wildlife habitats in our community.
- Take home a free milkweed or other pollinator plant!

Phillips Park Zoo, 1000 Ray Moses Drive, Aurora

[More pollinator news ...](#)



Let's Take a Hike

By Ed Max

What greater way to spend Father's Day than atop a kame viewing the fen below? The small botanical treasure that is Bluff Spring Fen is chock full of flora - with over 450 species found so far.

Echinacea steals the spotlight at this time of year to create a purple haze on the hillsides and trails. Not a difficult hike, but an easy to moderate jaunt, botanizing along the way, on a loop trail for a few hours.

So come along this Father's Day, June 19th , on a foray into a wonderful park located in a rather unusual place off Rt. 20 near Elgin.

Register for this popular hike [here](#) . Hope to see you there!



New ADA- Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch

By Jeff Gahrts

On April 23rd the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County inaugurated a new ADA-accessible kayak and canoe launch at Silver Lake in Blackwell Forest Preserve. The launch accommodates people of all abilities, making water recreation more accessible to our residents. [Learn more..](#)



Every Day Needs a (Dark) Night

By Adam Kreuzer

We sometimes forget that every day has a night! Unfortunately, because of the recent explosion of light pollution, our nights are now bright. Until only about 50 to 60 years ago, we had dark nights. Our grandparents and their parents walked summer nights under thousands of bright stars. Now, on the best of nights, we can see with our naked eyes not more than 40 stars. While we have adjusted somewhat to this very recent dramatic change in our environment, our birds and other wildlife friends have not.

[Learn more about the dark...](#)



The Last Word

How surely gravity's law, strong as an ocean current, takes hold of even the strongest thing and pulls it toward the heart of the world. Each thing—each stone, blossom, child—is held in place. Only we, in our arrogance, push out beyond what we belong to for some empty freedom. If we surrendered to earth's intelligence, we could rise up rooted, like trees.

- Rainer Maria Rilke

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