



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

DuPage Sierran

Winter 2022, Vol. 41, No. 1



Chatter from the Chair

As the year ends, I feel some hope for our future. (Yes, I know that Climate Change is still bearing down on us with disastrous consequences looming, but stay with me here.) After three years of lobbying, phone banking, text storms, town halls, rallies, letter and e-mail writing, Illinois now has the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Governor Pritzker signed it into law on a beautiful sunny day at the Shedd Aquarium. Because equity and justice and the needs of marginalized communities are front and center with this bold legislation, it is a groundbreaking model for other states in the country. As I write this, the governor, State Senate Chair Harmon, and Speaker of IL House Welch are all in Glasgow, Scotland, for the Climate Summit, representing this historic Illinois effort. Hope is on the horizon.

[More cool stuff...](#)



CEJA is Passed!

After three long years of lobby efforts, phone banking, emailing, letter writing, calling legislators, we did it...CEJA is passed. Although it is not the Clean Energy Jobs Act, it IS the **Climate and Equity Jobs Act**, which speaks volumes to the priorities.

The work of CEJA started with Listen Lead Share sessions across Illinois. CEJA is the culmination of what was envisioned and needed for all communities to have an equitable clean energy future. It gives closing dates to the polluting fossil fuel plants and prioritizes the communities most affected in offering clean jobs and boosting clean energy businesses in these regions.

[More...](#)



Why Art Matters to Monarchs

Each of the four organizations that make up the DuPage Monarch Project are contributing the essential resources of science, education, community organizing, and public art to the shared mission of protecting monarch butterflies and pollinators. All are important. Science establishes a knowledge base for implementing and evaluating conservation measures; educators provide public officials with background information needed for effective policies; and community organizers bring people together for restoring and creating habitat. Art helps shape the cultural meanings within which conserving climate, land, and wildlife makes sense and is valued and pursued.

[More...](#)



Solar APP

Adding Zip to Solar Permitting

Ask your local permitting officials this question: What if a permit to install solar panels on your home could be processed in one day, not 30? It would be a boost for the solar industry and be convenient for you, wouldn't it?

It turns out the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), in conjunction with Underwriter Laboratories and other parties, have developed an app that would allow for fast, efficient, and effective permit reviews. SolarAPP+ should reduce cost, speed up solar installations, and provide for effective inspections by permitting authorities for enhanced safety. The plus sign, in case you are wondering, refers to the ability to add features to the app as time goes on.

[More...](#)



RPG Joins Forest Preserve in Lakes Research Project

In 2018 the River Prairie Group Water Monitoring Team met with Dan Grigas, Ecologist for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC), and Shannon Burns, long-time Water Monitoring Team member and FPDDC staff, to discuss using Water Monitoring Team's water-collecting and testing capabilities to help with a new research project.

[More...](#)



Planned Improvements at Willowbrook Wildlife Center

DuPage Forest Preserve District officials are mulling construction of a net-zero 27,000-square-foot new wildlife rehabilitation clinic for [Willowbrook Wildlife Center](#) in Glen Ellyn.

[More...](#)



Our Autumn Programs

Thanks to Jeff Gahriss and his contacts and planning, the River Prairie Group held three fabulous programs this fall. All of them took place in person with a supplemental Zoom or Facebook live feature so folks at home could join as well. Thank heavens for technology, which is definitely extending our reach!

[More...](#)

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!](#)