



RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP



DuPage Sierran

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Chatter from the Chair

Hello my fellow River Prairie Group members,

What a Summer and Fall roller coaster we have all been on! With more endorsements than any of the other 14 groups in Illinois (except Chicago group), Linda Sullivan rocked our political involvement out of the park. We walked for numerous weekends and multiple candidates, and then she joined other members to head to Wisconsin and work federally there. Read about our success stories in Linda's article in this newsletter, and many thanks for her leadership on one of the most important aspects of Sierra Club, that of promoting environmentally friendly policies through our endorsed officials. [More info...](#)



Environmentalists win big in DuPage County and IL

By Linda Sullivan

Bucking a national trend that put climate-change deniers and people openly hostile to environmental protection in charge at many levels, voters in Illinois elected a slate of Sierra Club-endorsed environmental champions, both to Congress and to the Illinois General Assembly and DuPage Forest Preserve Commission. We have reason for optimism that in Illinois, at least, there is much that will be accomplished to protect our environment.

Sierra Club members worked hard to elect these champions, first going through the often-laborious process of endorsing them, then helping elect them, mainly knocking doors and some phone banking. [Full story...](#)



Naperville should say No to early IMEA contract renewal

By Marc Willensky

Many River Prairie Group Sierra Club members are aware that IMEA (Illinois Municipal Electric Agency) wants their municipal customers, which includes Naperville, to renew their energy contracts early. This has been getting a lot of attention at the Naperville City Council, and local organizations, including ours, have spoken out against the renewal. The IMEA is one of nine partners that own and operate the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC), which is a coal mine/coal-fired power plant in Washington County, Illinois, and is the largest carbon dioxide polluter in our state. It's estimated that the soot pollution is responsible for 76 premature deaths in Illinois each year. [Full story...](#)



Solar getaway weekend

By Jan Bradford

It used to be that a farmer raised corn to feed his animals and a garden to feed his family. But let us see how the future looks on my Solar trip getaway in Rochelle. [See more...](#)



New Year's Day hike at Indiana Dunes

By Bob Brubaker

It is getting close to that time of year again, the annual New Year's Day hike at the Indiana Dunes with the Outings Leaders of the River Prairie Group!

We hope you will consider joining us for this year's New Year's Day hike at the Indiana Dunes. Feel the "cool" breeze on your face, breathe in the clean air, listen to the birds singing. Just enjoy being outside. [More details...](#)



Establishing fish passage on West Branch DuPage River

By Stephen McCracken

Dam removal can be an effective technique to restore life and function to river systems, but it's not always an option. Such is the case for the Fawell Dam, on the West Branch of the DuPage River, McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in northern Naperville.

Mapping of West Branch fish species by the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) found that 12 species dropped out of the fish community in the 26 miles of mainstem river upstream of the dam. [Full story...](#)



DuPage Monarch Project recognizes five environmental champions

By Lonnie Morris

Bumblebees and butterflies are in trouble. They're declining in part because there are fewer places where they can find food and shelter. There is widespread concern about what this will mean for the health of local ecosystems and crops like tomatoes that rely on native bees for pollination. The members of the DuPage Monarch Project are stepping up to protect the pollinators we all depend on.

This year DuPage Monarch Project recognized five pollinator conservation champions for their outstanding contributions to making DuPage County a safe haven for bees and butterflies.

[Full story...](#)



 **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Pollinator Blitz:
Bringing Conservation Home**
Speakers, demonstrations, vendors, and more!

Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mayslake Peabody Estate

Support provided by:

 **SIERRA CLUB**
RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP

 **FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
DU PAGE COUNTY**

 **THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

 **WILD ONES®**
Greater DuPage



Recap: Programs held about environmental health and Illinois bats

On October 16th, Dr. Jean Marie Kauth gave an engaging presentation on environmental health with a focus on chemicals that affect our wellbeing. A professor at Benedictine University, she has authored numerous books including [Environmental Legacies of the Copernican Universe](#).

[About Illinois bat conservation program](#)

Last word

"We will never be truly healthy, satisfied, or fulfilled if we live apart and alienated from the environment from which we evolved."

- Stephen Kellert

GET OUTSIDE

Enjoy the outdoors by joining our upcoming local outings! [Sign up here](#).



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[Donate to Sierra Club Illinois Today!](#)