



DuPage Sierran

Sierra Club, River Prairie Group of DuPage County

Winter 2016
Volume 35, No. 4



Chatter From the Chair

By **Connie Schmidt**

Well, although many governmental units do not have term limits, we at the RPG do. I have very happily served as your chair for the last four years and look forward to continuing work on the executive committee, but we will have a new chairperson writing to you in the next issue.

I have tried to keep many of the fabulous traditions intact, which were begun by my predecessor, Lonnie Morris. These include our efforts for municipalities to engage in Cool Cities. In addition, Lonnie started our efforts for the mayors' monarch pledge and continues to lead this charge. Check out her article in this issue highlighting our January program, an exciting film on monarch butterflies. We also continue our environmental book club and have expanded it to include Warrenville, as well as the Lombard Library. The next book chosen, *The World Without Us*, by Alan Weisman, has received very favorable comments from Time, Newsweek, The Washington Post, and one of our favorite activists, Bill McKibben himself. Check out the details in this newsletter, and we hope many of you will join us for these lively discussions. Over the last four years, with the encouragement and prodding of our outings

In this issue...

Chatter From the Chair	1-2
Forest Preserve Update	3-4
DoT Hires New Trails Coordinator.....	5
Mark Ginger Memorial Hike	6
Mystery Migration Unraveled	7
Green Readin'	8
Do We Need More Fossil Fuel Pipelines?	9
RPG Cross-Country Skiing	10-11
Conservation at Home	11
Outings	12-13
Ice Fishing Tournament.....	14
Membership Form	15

DuPage Sierran

Executive Chair: Connie Schmidt

Editor: Sherry Stratton

Writers: Connie Schmidt, Ryan Smith, Lonnie Morris,

Dave Davis

Layout: Dave Blake

For activities, legislative action alerts, and outings information:

Sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie or SCTRIPS.org

[Click Here for the River Prairie Group on Facebook](#)

leaders, we have tried to focus on bringing the outings programs to you with more vigor. Sadly, we lost one of our beloved leaders this fall, and a lovely tribute to Mark Ginger is included here, thanks to Tom Jarapko. A second memorial hike is being planned for April 2017. Details will be online and in the Spring 2017 newsletter. In addition, Mike Davis has shared some exciting details for the RPG skiing and winter outings, so please check out his article in this newsletter, as well.

By the time you read this, the election, thankfully, will be over. It seems important to mention that the work that Stacey Salman and Linda Sullivan do to

Continued on Page 2...

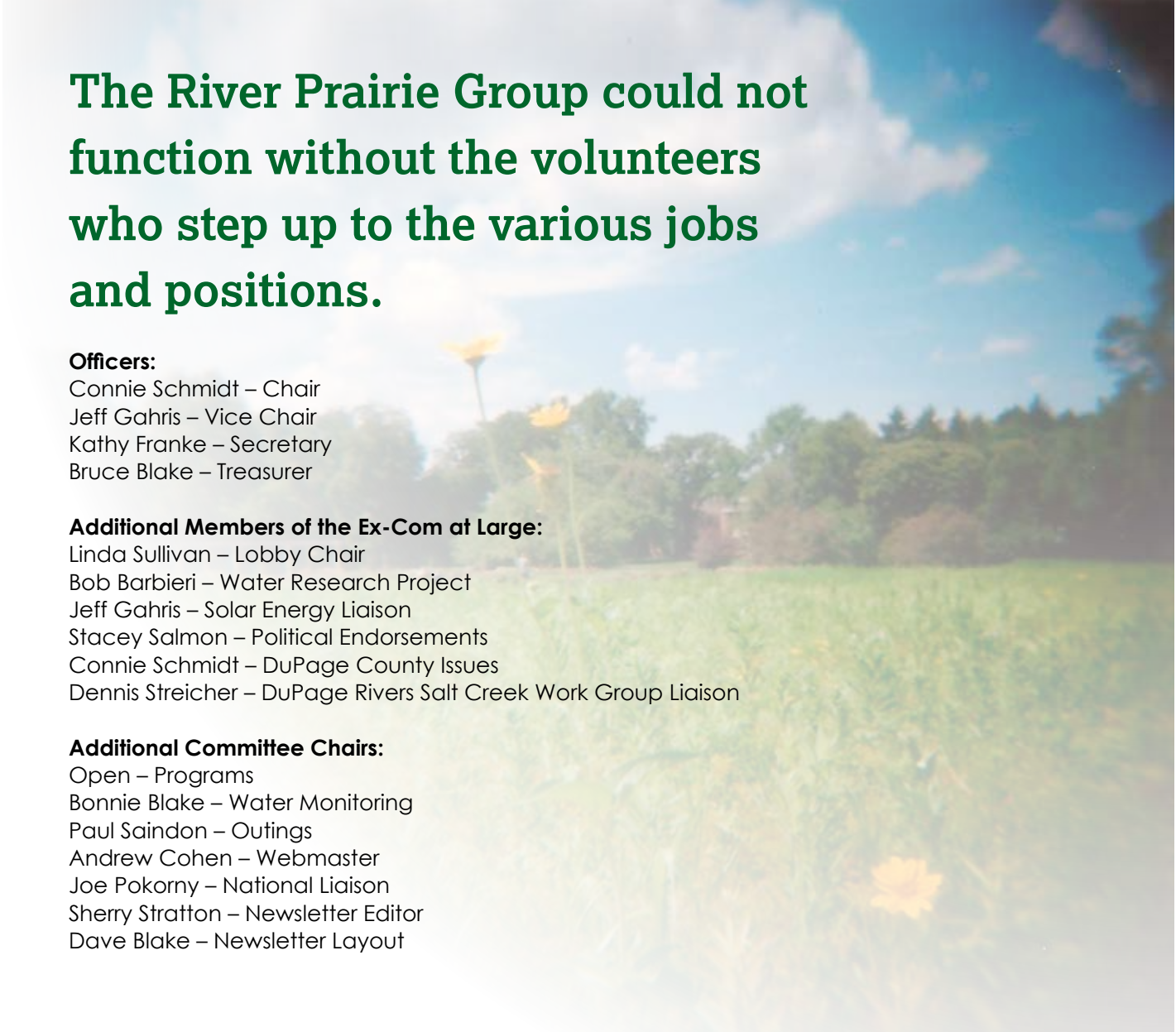
“Chatter from the Chair”

(Continued from page 1)

help RPG both lobby the legislature and endorse local candidates is invaluable to preserve the integrity of our environment. We begin another round of training for the 2017 Illinois priority bills in January, and if this is your passion, please contact us to get involved (Connie twnstr111@msn.com).

...And so, I honestly am a little sad (and relieved ☺) that this is my last letter to you as Chairperson for now. If you look at the photo above, you will see me in a familiar pose. No, sillies, not just the wine, but the gesture of CHEERS! This is a very joyful moment for me

as I sit down with loved ones, my husband, family, friends, or those I work with to say, “Hear, hear”, we are sharing good wishes to each other. In researching “Cheers” for this note to you, I learned the following from “Phrase Finder”: “The bouquet of the wine is for the nose, the colour for the eye, the body for taste and touch, and, of course, the clinking of the goblet for the ear.” May you find ways to enjoy nature with each of your senses, as well. Cheers, my friends!



The River Prairie Group could not function without the volunteers who step up to the various jobs and positions.

Officers:

Connie Schmidt – Chair
Jeff Gahrns – Vice Chair
Kathy Franke – Secretary
Bruce Blake – Treasurer

Additional Members of the Ex-Com at Large:

Linda Sullivan – Lobby Chair
Bob Barbieri – Water Research Project
Jeff Gahrns – Solar Energy Liaison
Stacey Salmon – Political Endorsements
Connie Schmidt – DuPage County Issues
Dennis Streicher – DuPage Rivers Salt Creek Work Group Liaison

Additional Committee Chairs:

Open – Programs
Bonnie Blake – Water Monitoring
Paul Saindon – Outings
Andrew Cohen – Webmaster
Joe Pokorny – National Liaison
Sherry Stratton – Newsletter Editor
Dave Blake – Newsletter Layout



DuPage County Forest Preserve Update

By Ryan Smith, Senior Ranger
Forest Preserve District DuPage County

It's hard to believe that winter is fast approaching and colder nights are with us. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac long-range weather predictions for 2017, a "warmer than normal" winter may be in store for us. However, predictions for precipitation show a "snowier than normal" season in Illinois and the lower Great Lakes region. The coldest period, of course, is going to be from mid-December through late February with snow predicted throughout the whole month of February, a far cry from last season. So get those boots dusted off and get ready for some snowy fun!

With temperatures dropping and snow accumulating this winter, don't just step outside when the driveway needs clearing, head on out to your local Forest Preserve and enjoy some winter activities throughout the season. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are two of the more exhilarating ways to experience the glories of winter. Cross-country skiing can be enjoyed on most regional trails in DuPage County Forest Preserves. However, be aware of sensitive habitats and the trails that may pass through them, as these areas do not allow for this activity. Please refer to individual forest preserve maps. When conditions are favorable, Rangers like myself spend many hours grooming over 70 miles of trails for classic and skate-style cross-country skiing, making this activity enjoyable for all types of cross-country skiing. If you venture out to enjoy some cross-country skiing, you may sight some mushers shouting the familiar commands of "gee" and "haw", on select trails at two forest preserves as they enjoy the adventurous thrills of dog sledding. Dog sledding is allowed on the Bobolink and connector trails at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville and the Thunderbird spur trail at Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville. Maybe you're an avid angler waiting for open water and summer fun. Well, we hate to break it to you, but you might be waiting awhile. So bundle up and get out-



side and try fishing in a whole new way, or a "hole" new way (cue the drums, I'm here all week), as you come and enjoy ice fishing on many lakes located within DuPage County Forest Preserves. Tubing and snowshoeing can also be enjoyed throughout the winter months. The Mount Hoy tubing hill is located at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Here you can take the thrilling 800-foot ride down Mount Hoy on a rented tube, or explore forest preserve trails with your own or rented snowshoes. The tube hill will be open December through February on weekends and school holidays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and daily during winter break, when conditions are favorable. Snowshoe rentals are also available 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the District's West Division office on Mack Road. Call (630) 876-5931 for availability. Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook allows for daily

Continued on Page 4...

“Forest Preserve Update” (Continued from page 3)

rentals. Call (630) 850-8110 for availability.

Personal time at your local forest preserves is always good for the soul; however, attending scheduled events throughout the winter can also offer a connection with nature. Feel free to browse our Calendar of Events on our District website at <http://dupageforest.org/Calendar.com>. Here you can view upcoming programs and events scheduled throughout this winter season. On December 3rd you can have your picture taken with Santa and his wildlife friends during a holiday open house at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn. Or brace yourself for some competitive ice fishing during the annual Hard Water Classic, being held at Silver Lake in Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on January 14th, with a back-up date of February 11th if ice thickness is not favorable. You can also bring the family out for the annual Wonders of Winter at Mayslake Forest Preserve in Oak Brook. Here, you can escape the winter doldrums and try some favorite seasonal activities, or get reacquainted with a former childhood pastime. All information for upcoming events can be obtained through our Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248.

If you're a Carol Stream resident, and enjoy the freedom of biking on over 145 miles of Forest Preserve District trails, access just got that much easier. You are now able to enjoy a smooth ride on the recently finished path that fills the gap in the West Branch River Trail. The finished trail has been extended east on St. Charles Road and continues north to Fair Oaks and Lies roads. The Forest Preserve worked cooperatively with the village of Carol Stream to complete this critical missing segment. Slightly farther north from Carol Stream, in Hanover Park, some may have noticed a pedestrian bridge being built over County Farm Road. This bridge helps connect Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve with Mallard Lake Forest Preserve. This multipurpose trail bridge also helps connect the missing link in the North Central DuPage Regional Trail, which now connects Cook County to the West Branch DuPage River Trail. Overall, projects like these help continue the Forest Preserve's outreach to local communities and further the guiding principles the Forest Preserve District is committed to.

With onset of winter approaching, wildlife sightings may be less prominent than what we saw this past fall; however, for one species, sightings can increase. Through February, coyotes will be seen more frequently in open spaces, and the Forest



Preserve District reminds residents that coyotes are an important component of the ecological community. Coyotes play a vital role in that community by keeping populations of smaller animals and rodents in control for a valued ecosystem. During the winter, young coyotes will leave their parents in search of mates and territories to call their own. With DuPage County having extensive urban areas, these coyotes are forced to move around quite a bit looking for an unoccupied area to call home. Also, less vegetation growth during the dormant season can play a role in sightings, as this gives coyotes fewer places to hide. A hungry coyote is going to be more interested in unsecured garbage cans, pet food, open compost piles, and bird feeders or fallen fruit under trees and shrubs. Keeping your yard clean will help limit these attractants.

We look forward to seeing you out this winter. However you choose to enjoy time outside, just remember to be adventurous, bundle up, and enjoy winter recreation responsibly. And always remind yourself that there are no mosquitoes to “bug” you! As always, please advise the Forest Preserve District of any concerns through the Forest Preserves main phone number (630) 933-7200.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has been connecting people to nature for more than 100 years. More than 4 million people visit its 60 forest preserves, 145 miles of trails, five education centers and scores of programs each year.

Department of Transportation Hires a New Trails Coordinator!

A big welcome to Sidney Kenyon of the DuPage County Department of Transportation! You may recall Debra Fagen, then Daniel Thomas . . . well, we now have Sidney Kenyon to help watch over the infamous, fabulous trail system we have for DuPage County residents. Most popular are the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail, although we have a multitude of bicycle routes and connecting links, thanks to this department.

Sidney hails from Oak Park and brings a wealth of experience from municipal to regional and National planning projects. His most recent employment was McHenry County, where he gained experience coordinating various agencies to move from concepts to concrete (or limestone) as projects evolved into fruition. Already, Sidney has begun looking into the last major plan for county trails of 2008, and he is interested in updating it.

Terry Witt of Trails Linking Communities joined Connie Schmidt at this introductory meeting. Important projects that Terry highlighted were:

- The West branch trail, getting a connection across Roosevelt Road in West Chicago.
- A Lake Street Connection between Medinah and Itasca
- Creating access from Rt. 59 to Stearns Rd. to get into Pate Phillips St. Park

In addition, signage that speaks to user groups yielding with respect was also discussed. Sidney brings a great vibe to this important job and will be our connecting link between government and the user groups. We look forward to seeing him at the Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting on November 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Wheaton Memorial Park Center, 208 West Union Avenue.



Left to Right: Terry Witt, Sidney Kenyon and Connie Schmidt.

Mark Ginger Memorial Hike



On Saturday, October 1, 2016, Gloria and Tom Jarapko hosted a memorial hike, dinner, and bonfire party in honor of Mark Ginger's life. There were 45 guests, including Mark's family, Sierra Club members, and friends from his meditation group.

Tom led a memorial hike through nearby parks and forest preserves. The weather was overcast and rainy. While everyone wanted to hike, there was a debate over whether it should take place, because of the inclement weather conditions. It was asked "What would Mark do?" and everyone knew he would forge on despite the weather. The 5-mile hike was a success, taking the group through suburban "wild" places containing flora and fauna such as deer, waterfowl and other birds, turtles, and fish.

Gloria remained behind, welcoming guests who did not hike and preparing the bratwursts and hot dogs on the grill. She welcomed Andy "Fireman" Ferraro's offer to do the grilling, and he did a great job in the waves of rain and drizzle. Guests brought delicious side dishes and desserts. Unfortunately, we could not have the bonfire because of the rain.

Mark's sudden and unexpected death was overwhelming; however, the evening was filled with shared stories of Mark as a Sierra Club Leader, Volunteer at Volo Bog, friend, and loving family member. Mark's memory and love of the outdoors will be with us at every future hike, bike ride, and ski trip.



Mystery Migration Unraveled

By Lonnie Morris

The eastern monarch's life cycle is split into two parts, separated by 2,500 miles. Discovering the connection between them required the work of a lifetime.

DuPage Monarch Project is proud and pleased to offer a free viewing of *Flight of the Butterflies*, described as a "slice of perfection," "... a detective story, a love story, and an action flick."

The monarch's incredible long-distance migration and Fred Urquhart's 40-year search to establish the link between the summer breeding and overwintering territories are brilliantly captured in this visually stunning docu-drama.

This is a chance to fall in love with monarchs all over again while watching their miraculous migration unfold, interwoven with the story of Fred Urquhart, a boy fascinated by butterflies who grew up to become a world-class butterfly sleuth. *Flight of the Butterflies* weaves science, nature, and an old-fashioned story of perseverance into a captivating tale.

Flight of the Butterflies
January 23, 2017, 7:00 pm
Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane

Free and open to the public.

Locally sponsored by DuPage Monarch Project, Elmhurst Garden Club, Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission, Glen Ellyn Park District, Sierra Club River Prairie Group, and Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter.



Green Readin'

The World Without Us

By Alan Weisman

For about six years now, the River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club has been coordinating with the Lombard Public Library to bring a "Green Readin'" selection to the patrons during the winter months. Over the last two years, we extended our program to include Warrenville, as well. This year we will be reading *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman.

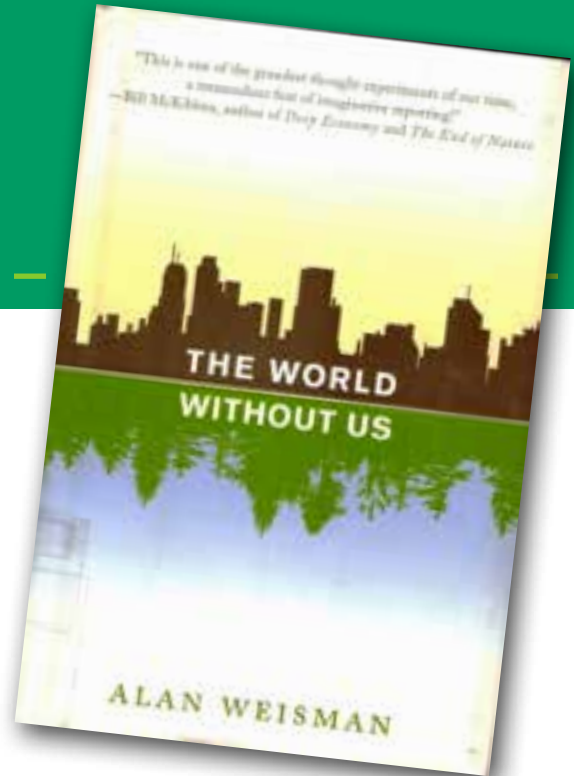
This selection came highly recommended by librarians and bookstore clerks, but one look at the cover with a stunning comment by Bill McKibben should grab you for sure. In 2007, *The World Without Us* was on many best books lists, including the New York Times Bestseller.

Stimulated by the phenomena that occurred at Chernobyl once people abandoned and nature began to overtake the area, Weisman began his research. Integrating the author's imagination and scientific background, this book provides us with ample opportunity to ponder our own place and impact on the planet.

Alan Weisman explores how humans have changed the world and whether or not nature could reclaim the planet if we were gone. Weisman jumps right in with questions such as: What would happen if humans disappeared from Earth today? How long would our homes last and what would happen to everyday pieces of our society such as our pets, artworks, monuments, or even sky scrapers?

Journalist Alan Weisman is an award-winning writer whose credits include the New York Times Magazine, Discover, and National Public Radio. He teaches international journalism at the University of Arizona.

Join us at the Warrenville Public Library on Tuesday, January 17, from 7-8 pm or in Lombard at the Helen Plumb Library on Sunday, February 26, from 2-3 pm. The discussion will be led by Shannon Burns and discussion questions will be available at both libraries.



Do We Need More Fossil Fuel Pipelines?

By Mike Davis



The Canadian pipeline company Enbridge has four pipelines crossing the Illinois-Wisconsin border. Two run in the Greater Chicagoland Area, one near Rt. 47 and one near I-294. In 2007, Enbridge received approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to use eminent domain to seize landowner right-of-way for the other two pipelines. In its ICC argument, Enbridge claimed the lines – used for the transport of Alberta tar sands bitumen – were needed primarily to service Illinois's crude oil demand. However, at approximately the same time, Enbridge purchased a pipeline that was bringing crude oil from the Gulf Coast into Illinois and reversed its flow. In the following years, the company built two new pipelines to carry crude oil out of Illinois. In addition, Enbridge is now purchasing a 27.6% share of the in-the-news and under construction Dakota Access pipeline and the partner ETCO project, which together provide a path for fracked oil into and back out of Illinois on a journey to the Gulf.

In the past few years, Enbridge has stripped landowners of bargaining power, refused to take full responsibility for the worst inland oil spill in US history, denied responsibility for a major spill in Romeoville, and significantly reduced crop production on its

right-of-way. To say enough is enough, a group of concerned citizens and landowners launched the SOIL project – Save Our Illinois Land – prompted by another new pipeline on the Enbridge books. The group strategy is to be prepared, with a two-pronged plan, well before any formal announcement of the project. First, SOIL is enlisting and training ordinary citizens to enter the ICC legal process to argue against the project. The second prong, along with public education, opens the door for landowners to join forces for the protection of their land.

Chicago contact:

Richard Studkey—rjstuckey@aol.com

Blackhawk Group contact:

Dave Davis—ddavis@dcswww.com

Donations to support this effort may be sent to:

SOIL Project
1121 Loren Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

River Prairie Group Cross-Country Skiing Program

By Connie Schmidt



Does the thought of the upcoming winter have you feeling less than enthused? Are you not looking forward to the season? Instead of hiding indoors, you could try going cross-country skiing, which is appropriate for all ages. If you don't know how to ski or are not sure where, the RPG outings program has the answers.

A core group of leaders have been running several ski outings annually, which participants can attend to learn and enjoy the sport. These outings make up an informal skiing program that skiers of all abilities can take part in.

First up is our very successful Beginners on-snow cross-country workshop where we teach participants how to ski. This two-day outing usually takes place

in early January in nearby southwestern Michigan or in southern Wisconsin near Milwaukee, depending on the often fickle snow conditions. A short lecture precedes students getting on their skis and shuffling out to the practice area, where they are taught to stride, turn, and tackle small hills while skiing under control. One instructor even specializes in showing students how to get back on their skis after falling. After the practice loop, it is time for their first escorted ski around the park on the groomed and tracked ski trail system. Hills and more practice are on the afternoon agenda, and the next day skiers are ready for more adventures in another park. This trip is ideal for complete beginners or for those who would like to improve their technique.

Sometime in late January the annual two-day ski trip to Steven's Point in central Wisconsin is often the next step for ski-clinic graduates (and anyone else who knows how to ski). Although this isn't a clinic, the instructors are usually present to give advice and encouragement as students and veterans explore more extensive groomed trail systems.

In February the popular three-day trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula is certainly a favorite for experienced skiers on down to advanced beginners. The trails are perfectly groomed, and snow is always available in copious amounts. (This trip has run annually since at least the mid-90s.) Lodging is in north woods cabins where highly rated dinners are served, after which board games may be played or a stroll out on the frozen lake is always an experience.

No matter what your skill level, the River Prairie Group most likely has a cross-country ski trip perfect for you.



Let's get ready for the Spring planting season with an inspiring program on reinventing our yards to host more bio diverse plant and animal populations. The February 22, 2017 meeting for the River Prairie Group welcomes you to a program from the Conservation Foundation called Conservation@Home for Water Conservation or Pollinators. Generally we meet in Libraries but this meeting has a new location; The Warrenville Park District at the community building 3S240 Warren Ave at 7:00 pm. We are grateful that the Warrenville Park District will be joining with us in sponsoring and advertising this important program to residents.

Reinventing a "typical" landscape can easily improve water resource practices, wildlife habitat and land stewardship. The benefits of improving the environment are many including reducing your water use, infiltrating more run-off, creating more area for pollinators, reducing chemical use, less lawn mowing, and controlling invasive species. This education program will cover a variety of ideas for transforming your landscape, including the use of Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, and the use of native plants.

For further information contact:
Connie Schmidt, twenstr111@Msn.com

River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings

EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET BY DISCOVERING YOUR LOCAL OUTDOORS.

Sierra Club Local Outdoors volunteers lead a range of outings that are as diverse as their interests. Depending on where you are, you can choose from day hikes, bicycling, skiing, paddling, bird-watching, conservation-oriented activities, or forays into the remaining natural areas of our major cities.

www.sctrips.org

New Year's Day Hike at the Indiana Dunes January 1, 2017, 11:00 AM (Tentative) Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

Join us for a 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. Start out the New Year on the right foot! We will hike about 5 to 7 miles on two mostly inland trails, where it is sheltered from the winter winds. One of the trails may be the Inland Marsh or Cowles Bog Trail, both wonderful but underused trails. The second trail will be determined based on the weather and the interest of the group. You are welcome to join us for just the first portion, if you like (approximately 3-4 miles).

This is a great hike for both those new to being out in nature and the more experienced. This is an important natural area and is known as the "birthplace of ecology." Signups will be taken after November 1. To sign up, email the leader Bob Brubaker at nlu-bob@yahoo.com or call 773-989-5589 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. by December 28.

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Weekend January 6, 2017 to January 8, 2017

Do you want to learn to cross-country ski? Do you know how but want to improve your skiing techniques? Participants will learn basic skills in a controlled area and then improve their skills on the trails with instructors. The \$25 cost includes a donation to support cross-country ski trails. Meals and lodging costs are not included. Limit 20 participants; intermediate skiers are welcome, but priority will be given to beginners.

The clinic will be held in Berien County, Michigan (near South Bend), but may be moved to SE Wisconsin if conditions are better. In the event of icy or warm weather conditions, the clinic will be re-scheduled to the following weekend. Trip leaders

are Donna & Steve Turner and Mike Davis. To sign up, call Mike at 815-331-3042 or e-mail mikeyd5600@comcast.net to reserve your spot.

Book Discussion: "The World Without Us" January 17, 2017, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Warrenville Public Library, 28W751 Stafford Pl, Warrenville

Join the Sierra Club's Green Readin' Book Club for a lively discussion of *The World Without Us* by award-winning journalist Alan Weisman.

Have you ever considered what would happen if humans disappeared from Earth today? How long would our homes last and what would happen to our pets? How long would our artworks and monuments last? Weisman explores how humans have changed the world and how long it would take for the planet to go back to its original state.

More information about the book is available at www.worldwithoutus.com

Stevens Point Cross-Country Ski Trip January 20, 2017 to January 22, 2017

Dust off those skis and join us for cross-country skiing at its best. We will stay in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, about 4 hours' drive from Chicago, and ski Saturday and Sunday on groomed trails in the area. The trails are suitable for skiers of all abilities; however, true beginners should attend the Beginner Cross-Country Ski Clinic Jan. 7 and 8, which will get you ready for this trip.

The \$135 cost is for lodging (double occupancy) and trail passes but does not include food or transportation. If the conditions in Wisconsin are not good, this trip may be moved to the Cadillac, Michigan, area. Leaders are Donna and Steve Turner. To sign up, contact them at 630-782-5865 or sdturner@gmail.com and send \$100 deposit.

FREE MOVIE – “Flight of the Butterflies”

January 23, 2017, 7:00 PM

Glen Ellyn Public Library

Experience the most incredible migration on earth ... And one man's search to unravel its mysteries.

Eagles and Frozen Waterfalls – Starved Rock

February 5, 2017, 9:15 AM (Tentative)

North Utica, IL

Come join me for a fun day viewing and learning about the American Bald Eagle, hiking, and seeing the frozen waterfalls of Starved Rock State Park. Since the day could be cold/icy, YakTrax ice grippers are required for the hike to prevent you from falling.

The hike is about 4 to 4.5 miles. After the hike, you are welcome to join me for some hot chocolate before heading home. Limit 20, Sierra fee \$3, Assistant leader Ed Max. Please contact Leader Jan Bradford by e-mail jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

Upper Peninsula Cross-Country Ski Trip

February 10, 2017 to February 13, 2017

Long weekend cross-country ski trip to the UP of Michigan. We will ski at three local areas with excellently groomed ski systems. Excellent dinners will be served on Saturday and Sunday nights in our great north woods well-equipped cabin.

Cost of approximately \$140 includes lodging and two dinners. Trail fees or donations not included. To register or get more info, call trip leader Mike Davis at 815-331-3042 or email mikeyd5600@comcast.

Let's get ready for the Spring planting season

February 22, 2017, 7:00 PM

Warrenville Park District Community Building, 3S240 Warren Ave, Warrenville

Let's get ready for the spring planting season with an inspiring program on reinventing our yards to host more bio-diverse plant and animal populations. The February 22, 2017 meeting for the River Prairie Group welcomes you to a program from the Conservation Foundation called Conservation@Home for Water Conservation or Pollinators. Generally, we meet in libraries, but this meeting has a new location: The Warrenville Park District (see headline). We are grateful that the Warrenville Park District will be join-

ing with us in sponsoring and advertising this important program to residents.

Reinventing a “typical” landscape can easily improve water resource practices, wildlife habitat, and land stewardship. The benefits of improving the environment are many, including reducing your water use, infiltrating more run-off, creating more area for pollinators, reducing chemical use, less lawn mowing, and controlling invasive species. This education program will cover a variety of ideas for transforming your landscape, including the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and native plants.

For further information contact: Connie Schmidt twenstr111@Msn.com

Book Discussion: “The World Without Us”

February 26, 2017, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Helen Plum Public Library, 110 W Maple St, Lombard

See the description for the Jan. 17 listing for this event.

Good Friday Spring Wildflower Hike at White Pines State Park

April 14, 2017, 9:15 AM

Polo, IL

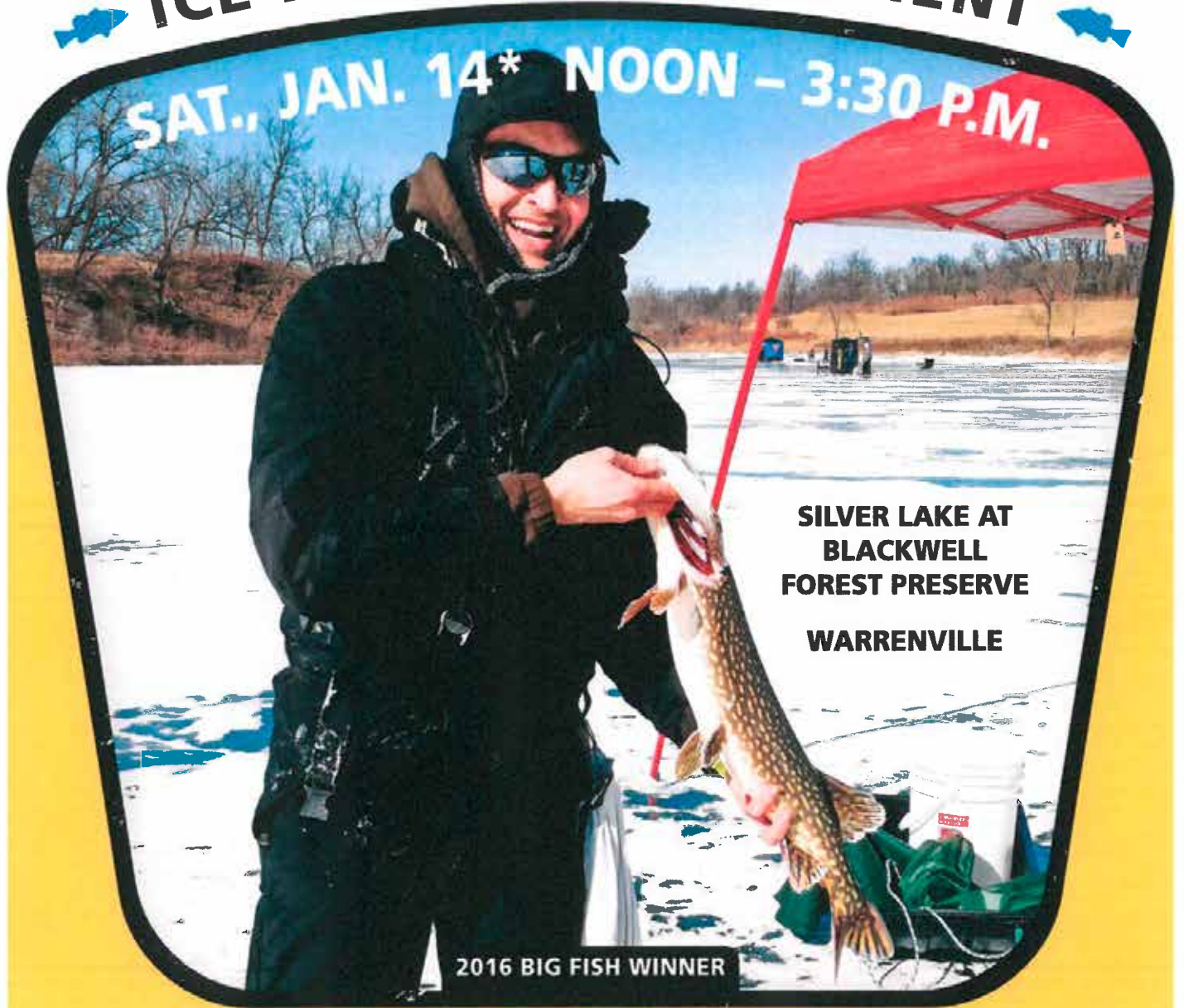
Come join us to identify spring wildflowers at beautiful White Pines State Park. This will be a leisurely hike, as we will stop often to identify the flowers. Several years ago we identified about 30 different kinds and saw several patches of massive flowers. So bring your cameras and books and come with us.

Assistant Leader Mike Way, limit 20, Sierra fee \$3. Please contact the leader Jan Bradford at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

HARD WATER CLASSIC

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

SAT., JAN. 14* NOON – 3:30 P.M.



**SILVER LAKE AT
BLACKWELL
FOREST PRESERVE
WARRENVILLE**

2016 BIG FISH WINNER

**Friendly Competition
and Great Prizes —
Gas Auger, Gift Cards
and Fishing Gear**

**\$20 per angler in advance;
\$25 at the event**

**For more details,
call (630) 933-7248.**

To register, visit dupageforest.org/HWClassic.

*In the event of unsafe ice, the tournament will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11.



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

dupageforest.org



Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____
 Signature _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W0715 1