



Monday, January 27, 2020

Greetings from FREP

Please visit our [Website](#) for additional information and updates on activities shared in this newsletter

Our Next Activity

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 FREP Noon Network

Location: Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center, Geneva Park District
3507 Kaneville Rd., Geneva, IL, 60134 Room 201/202

Program: **Panel Discussion on Lake/Pond Shoreline Management**

Participants: Moderated by Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President
Keith Jones, V3 Companies; Bill Bedrossian, Bedrock EarthScapes;
Jeff Palmquist, Fox Valley Park District; Sarah Voska, Bluestem Ecological Services



Lakes and ponds that require active shoreline management to address and prevent erosion are scattered throughout the watershed. They are the often responsibility of municipalities, park districts, forest preserves, Home Owner Associations (HOAs) and individual property owners. FREP is bringing together a panel of watershed experts and professionals to discuss and share best management techniques, solutions, and lessons learned.

Anyone who lives along or near a pond or lake shoreline, or who works for an organization charged with managing shorelines should attend this program to learn current best practices and lessons learned from these experts. The program will also give insights into the why and the benefits of native landscaping around ponds and lakes.

Our panelists:

Bill Bedrossian is the owner of Bedrock Earthscapes, a native landscape company focused on enriching life through improving our environment. His company establishes, restores and stewards prairies, woodlands and wetlands locally. Bill also consults nationally with colleges and universities on how to convert their traditional landscapes to more sustainable earthscapes. He has over 45 years of experience in landscape design and maintenance, grounds management and sustainable landscape practices. His undergraduate degree is in Plant Sciences, he has a Master of Science degree in Management, he is a Registered Landscape Architect and a Certified Burn Manager.

Keith Jones is a project manager and senior ecologist with V3 Companies. He earned a Bachelor's degree in environmental biology from Eastern Illinois University. Keith has over 20 years of experience designing, building, and managing native ecosystems, including naturalized stormwater BMPs throughout northeastern Illinois.

Jeff Palmquist is the Director of Planning, Research and Grants at Fox Valley Park District, and has been with FVPD since 1998. Notable accomplishments include leading the implementation of the District's \$45 million capital and land acquisition referendum, passed in 2007. Significant projects completed under Jeff's leadership include the acquisition and adaptive re-use of the Cole Center Administration Building, the planning and construction of the 135-acre Stuart Sports Complex expansion in Montgomery, the renovation of Blackberry Farm, the renovation of the 60-acre Lippold Park, the acquisition and development of the 17 acre New Haven Park, and the renovation of Waubonsie Lake Park. Since 1999, he has successfully led the application process and management of over 25 grant funded projects exceeding \$7.5 million. Jeff has also managed the District's land acquisition initiative, which since 2008 has resulted in the preservation of 90 acres of open space throughout Aurora, Montgomery and North Aurora. Jeff holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor's in Urban Planning from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Sarah Voska works for Bluestem Ecological Services implementing nature-based solutions in ecosystems throughout her community. Her personal mission is to encourage micro and macro level community engagement to support healthy communities and a healthy environment. She first got involved in ecology working with her homeowner's association working on shoreline restoration, watershed management and community awareness campaigns. She holds a BS in Sustainable Management from University of Wisconsin-Parkside. She's worked extensively in climate change & environmental education at the local, national and international level. Sarah attended the UN Climate Talks in 2016, 2017 and 2019 on behalf of non-profit environmental group Care About Climate, where she supported policy development on ecosystem restoration and youth education initiatives.

Monday, March 9, 2020

One Earth Film Festival Screening
6 PM Doors Open for Sustainability Resource Fair
7 PM Film Screening & Post-Discussion



In a race against the end of farmable soil, three individuals fight for change in the industry of agricultural food production, calling for a revolution. "The Need to GROW" delivers alarming evidence on the importance of healthy soil — revealing not only the potential of localized food production working with nature, but our opportunity as individuals to help regenerate our planet's dying soils and participate in the restoration of the Earth.

Location:

Waubonsee Community College Aurora Downtown Campus
Multipurpose Room
First Floor
18 S. River St., Aurora, IL

This is FREP's 4th year to co-sponsor a One Earth Film Festival screening.

Our co-sponsors are:

The Conservation Foundation; Friends of the Fox River; Sierra Club, Valley of the Fox; Fox River Study Group; Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District; Kane County Environmental & Water Resources Division; and Campton Township Parks and Open Space. Corporate sponsors are Applied Ecological Services and Hey and Associates. All will participate in the Sustainability Resource Fair, along with additional guests involved in the organic farming movement.

Details about the film can be found on our [film webpage](#). A link for advance registration (recommended) will be available there soon.

Tickets are free, but an \$8 donation to OEFF per ticket is appreciated to support the festival.



Thursday, March 26, 2020 8th Annual Fox River Summit

Fox River Summit



The Fox River Summit has become an annual event with our Wisconsin Fox River stakeholders. We take this time to share what we are doing in our part of the watershed and what concerns and successes we can share. From this group has grown collaboration, such as the initiation of the Fabulous Fox Water Trail. Check out the speakers and topics and join us in Wisconsin.

[Link to full program](#)

Speaker Topics: Promoting Soil Health - On-Farm Costs, Risks, and Rewards; Vegetation Management; 100 Years Later: Fox River Photo Canoe Trip, Scott Johnson, Science Teacher Oswego East High School, grandson of Dick Young; Illinois Department of Natural Resources: A State Partner Perspective; The Eloquence of Art as a Conservation Tool; Development of Water Quality Model to support Fox River Implementation Plan; Keynote: Classifying Lakes to Make Wisconsin Fisheries Better

Location: Veterans Terrace at Echo Park, Burlington, WI

\$40/including lunch and refreshments.

Note: The Summit is on a **Thursday**, not Friday as it has been in previous years.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 Special Evening Program 7 PM

Program: [America's Most Decorated Junior Ranger, Aida Frey](#)

Location: Algonquin Village Hall, Ganek Municipal Center
2200 Harnish Drive Algonquin, IL 60102

Come hear from America's most decorated junior ranger and young local activist, Aida Frey. She has visited 311 National Parks and will have displays of her trips.

She will also be signing her book, ***America, Can I Have Your Autograph?***

This program is free and open to the public. We encourage you to bring family, friends and young people.

[Aida's Facebook Page](#)



Check our [Website News Page](#) for information about additional upcoming Noon Networks & Meeting Programs

All FREP Membership Meetings & Programs, and FREP Noon Networks are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. Most Noon Networks accommodate us bringing our lunch to eat during the program.

Many of our past **Noon Network & Membership Meeting presentations** are available in pdf form [HERE](#)

FREP is happy to offer Professional Development Hour (PDH) certificates for our Noon Networks and Membership programs. There is a place on our sign-in sheet to request one, or, just ask!

President's Message



FREP got 2020 off to a great start hearing from Dr. Jim Herkert about migratory bird populations. Jim provided an in depth look at the recent report of bird population declines that made the news. And while the numbers that got reported are correct, Jim pointed out that approximately 90% of our native bird species are not in steep decline – at least not yet. Our challenges are to find the right scale of conservation to solve or remedy each challenge. And while we have traditionally focused on the rare and endangered species (and rightfully so), we may also need effort at keeping the common species common. (we're working with Jim to get his powerpoint posted to the FREP web page in some fashion)

Now, moving on to what else you can do in 2020 to learn more and be able to help make the Fox River Watershed more resilient after one of our hottest and wettest years on record.

February 12, 2020 Noon Network at Persinger Rec Center in Geneva – we will host a panel discussion on shoreline management. What are the challenges, what are the best practices and lessons learned, and how does my local shoreline management help in the big picture? Please help us spread the word about this program to Park Districts, Homeowner's Associations, and others who inherit and manage pond and lake shorelines.

March 9, 2020 – 6pm at Waubensee Community College, Downtown Aurora – FREP will co-sponsor its fourth One Earth Film Festival screening. This year's film **The Need To GROW** delivers alarming evidence on the importance of healthy soil – revealing not only the potential of localized food production working with nature, but our opportunity as individuals to help regenerate our planet's dying soils and participate in the restoration of the Earth. I have previewed the film and it is a great selection – please bring your friends and encourage youth to attend. See more about this film at <https://www.earthconsciouslife.org/theneedtogrow>.

March 26, 2020 – the 8th Annual Fox River Summit in Burlington, Wisconsin will be our best Summit yet offering a gamut of presentations intended to inform and inspire us to work across our entire watershed. Hear from the nine Fox River-based groups to learn what they do, about their distinct missions, and how you can be more involved. Breakout sessions will help us to determine collaborative actions we can take going forward. Register at <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/>

April 8, 2020 FREP will host Aida Frey – America's Most Decorated Junior Ranger and book author. This youth from Algonquin will share her experiences visiting hundreds of National Parks and other conservation lands across the country. Her message will inspire us all to get outdoors more. She will also be signing her book, *America Can I Have Your Autograph?* This is a 7pm evening program at the Algonquin Village Hall – please spread the word and bring your friends, especially the young ones!

Get these on your calendars – you won't want to miss them. But wait there's more . . . great programs planned for the rest of 2020.

Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President

Watershed Partners/Links

Illinois: [Friends of the Fox River](#) [Fox River Study Group](#) [Fox Valley Sustainability Network](#)
[The Conservation Foundation Fox River Initiative](#)

Wisconsin: [Southeast Fox River Partnership](#) [Southeastern Wisc Fox River Commission](#) [Illinois Fox River Group](#)



**Wisconsin
and Illinois
partners
working with
the National Park
Service
to create the:**

**FABULOUS
FOX!
WATER
TRAIL**

FREP has joined with the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership and the Village of Waterford, Wisconsin, to pursue the designation of all or portions of the Fox River in Wisconsin and Illinois as a National Water Trail through the National Park Services' National Water Trail System. Technical assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program has been awarded and planning is now proceeding.

Core Development Team (CDT)

Co-Chairs: Karen Miller, FREP, for Illinois

Barb Messick, Village of Waterford, WI, for Wisconsin

Angie Tornes, National Park Service; Greg Farnham, Rock River Trail Initiative; Brian Daly, CMAP; Tom Slawski, Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership; Rick Kania, SEWRPC; Jaki Berggren, Visit McHenry Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Dave Blank, Real Racine Convention & Visitors Bureau. Sigrid Pilgrim and Jodie Auliff, Illinois Paddling Council, ad hoc members.

The Core Development Team of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail met at the Village of Waterford, Wisconsin on Tuesday January 21st. The Team discussed the completion of the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Stream Protection Grant which provided resources to develop the FF!WT logo, mapping, brochure, online portal and powerpoint template from Map Hero, a graphic artist. In 2019, over 40,000 brochures were printed and distributed through funding from the National Park Service, Kane County, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and the Convention & Visitors Bureaus along the Fox River. The Team began discussions on repeating that process for 2020. David Spiegelberg from Travel Wisconsin educated the Team about their Destination Marketing Grant and how we might apply. Recent past and future outreach efforts were reviewed. The next Team meeting is scheduled for Tues. Feb. 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Lost Valley Visitor Center at Glacial Park in Ringwood, Illinois. Anyone wanting brochures, please contact Karen Ann Miller at millerkaren@co.kane.il.us.

For more information contact Karen Ann Miller at millerkaren@co.kane.il.us.

Visit our **Water Trail Initiative page** [HERE](#) **Trail Website:** fabulousfoxwatertrail.org

FREP Membership Roll 2019-20

We are at 93% of our goal

**Thank you to our members listed below who have responded to our Membership Drive
You are helping to keep FREP strong.**

(showing dues received as of 12/23/19)

TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES/TO JOIN FREP:

Use the online membership form and link to make your payment through PayPal [HERE](#)

A printable/mailable form [HERE](#)

Links to member websites are provided, when available

Michael Ander, Friend, Sleepy Hollow
Paul Anderson, Friend, Geneva
Applied Ecological Services
Barrington Area Council of Governments
Batavia Park District
Thomas Berres, Friend, DeKalb
Campton Historic Agricultural, Inc./Garfield Farm Museum
Campton Township
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD
City of Aurora
City of Batavia
City of Elgin
City of Geneva
City of St. Charles
John Church, Friend, Oswego
Linda Cole, Friend, Aurora
Nancy Cox, Friend, St. Charles
Crystal Lake Park District
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
Deuchler Engineering Corporation
Bill Donnell, Friend, Aurora
Dundee Township
Sarah Duple, Friend, East Dundee
Engineering Enterprises, Inc. - EEI
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Forest Preserve District of Kendall County
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Oswego
Fox River Water Reclamation District, South Elgin
Fox Valley Park District
Friends of the Fox River

Kane Co. Development & Community Services Dept.
Kane County Farm Bureau
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
June Keibler, Friend, Dundee
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Rob Linke, Friend, St. Charles
Living Waters Consultants
Julie Long, Friend, St. Charles
McHenry County
McHenry County Conservation District
McHenry County Conservation Foundation
Gary Mechanic, Friend, St. Charles
Katie Meyer, Friend, Elgin
North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation Dist
Oswegoland Park District
Jason Pettit, Friend, Aurora
Pizzo Native Plant Nursery
Quentin Podraza, Friend, Fox Lake
Larry Rakunus, Friend, St. Charles
St. Charles Park District
Jack Schaefer, Friend, Barrington
Jack Shouba, Friend, St. Charles
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter & Valley of the Fox
Cindy Skrukud, Friend, Richmond
Faye Sinnott, Friend, Barrington
The Conservation Foundation
Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition
United City of Yorkville
V3 Companies

Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge
Geneva Park District
Geosyntec Consultants
Ed & Sue Harney, Friends, Sleepy Hollow
Hey and Associates
Holly Hudson, Friend, Elgin
ILM Environments
Illinois Paddling Council

Village of Algonquin
Village of Fox River Grove
Village of Lake Barrington
Village of Millbrook
Village of Oakwood Hills
Village of Port Barrington
Village of Round Lake
Village of Sleepy Hollow
Nancy Williamson & Steve Byers, Friends, Lakewood

The membership roll is also posted on our website [HERE](#).
Links are provided for those members who have websites

We share this list in each issue so that readers of Downstream can easily find links to our members,
to promote communication and collaboration on Fox River watershed issues.

Watershed Planning

A number of Fox River subwatershed groups are in various stages of developing, completing, and implementing plans for their watersheds. They are listed below, with links to their webpages/websites.

FREP continues to be a central source of information for these activities and will post meeting dates and information, and news of new planning here in the **Downstream** and on our website [HERE](#).

Mill Creek Watershed Planning

CMAP, in collaboration with Kane County, coordinated the development of a watershed-based plan for the Mill Creek Watershed in east-central Kane County. FREP assisted with communications for this effort and has posted updates in the Downstream e-Newsletter and on the Mill Creek Watershed Plan page on the FREP website.

Mill Creek Contact:

Holly Hudson, CMAP Project Manager, hudson@cmap.illinois.gov, 312-836-8700

The final draft of the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan and an executive summary are available on FREP's

[Mill Creek webpage](#) under the "Resources & Documents" section.

[CMAP page on Mill Creek](#) [FREP's Mill Creek page](#)

Photo: Conservation@Work at the St. Charles Park District's Hickory Knolls Discovery Center

Watch for information in the next Downstream on a new plan to be developed in another Fox River subwatershed.



Subwatershed Links

9 Lakes Watershed Plan [Webpage](#)

Blackberry Creek Watershed [Webpage](#)

Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed [Webpage](#)

Contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: 312-386-8700,
hudson@cmap.illinois.gov

Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed [Webpage](#)

Flint Creek Spring Creek Watershed Partnership

The group was recently notified that:
2018 Flint Creek Watershed Plan Update – 2018 meets the threshold of the required USEPA minimum requirements for the development of a watershed-based plan.
[Website](#)

Jelkes Creek-Fox River Watershed Coalition [Webpage](#) [Newsletter](#)

Next meeting: **TBA**
Schweitzer Environmental Center (SEC), the brick house on the top of the hill located at Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve, 16N690 Sleepy Hollow Road in West Dundee.

Nippersink Creek Watershed [Website](#)

Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition [Webpage](#)

Tyler Creek Watershed [Webpages](#)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month
4:30 p.m. at the Riverside Water Treatment Plant,
375 W. River Road, Elgin IL

Woods Creek Watershed Study Stakeholders [Website](#)

Little Rock Creek Watershed Plan meeting Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Sandwich City Council Chambers, 128 E. Railroad Street, Sandwich, IL 60548. Applied Ecological Services will be presenting the findings of their field inventory survey of the Little Rock Creek watershed.
Contact info: Thomas R. Horak, P.E. Director of Public Works City of Sandwich,
144 E. Railroad Street Sandwich, IL 60548-2168 815.786.8802 city.engineer@sandwich.il.us

Other Activities & News of Interest

If you have an activity or event you'd like FREP to share on our Website or in the Downstream, please email the information to Becky at:
foxriverinfo@comcast.net

Saturday

In Search of Eagles

February 15, 2020	4 locations in McHenry County & WI Program - Eagles of Illinois at Prairieview Education Center - FREE/Registration required for program USFW, Friends of Hackmatack and McHenry County Audubon will be at 4 locations for eagle-watching Info and link to program registration at Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge
Monday March 9, 2020 7 PM	One Earth Film Festival Screening -- Co-Sponsored by FREP Waubonsee Community College Aurora Downtown Campus Multipurpose Room, First Floor, 18 S. River St., Aurora, IL Details on our film page HERE
March 12-14, 2020	Illinois Lakes Management Association's 35th Annual Conference iHotel & Conference Center, Champaign, IL Flyer Registration Link
Thursday March 26, 2020	8th Annual Fox River Summit Burlington, WI Registration now open HERE
April 14-20, 2020	2020 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference , Center for Watershed Protection Austin, Texas Info/Registration

Website link for National Park Service's [Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program](#)

International Erosion Control Association is holding its annual conference February 23-26, 2020 in Raleigh, NC
[Registration Link](#)

Tips on how to properly recycle: [Video](#) prepared by the Illinois Task Force for Recycling Contamination, shared by Kane County Recycling.
NEW: Kane now offers clothes/textile recycling [Details](#)

Prairie Rivers Network: [RiverWeb News](#) **River Rally May 15-18, 2020 San Antonio Riverwalk**

[River Network's 2020 River Heroes](#)

FREP members -- please remember the Downstream when you wish to share information about an activity, job listing, or achievement. Email your information to Becky Hoag, generally by the 20th of the month, to make the next issue that comes out at the end of the month.

Becky Hoag, Communications Manager, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership 630-482-9157 foxriverinfo@comcast.net

Please email me if you have an email to add to our mailing list.

FREP WEBSITE: foxriverecosystem.org

 **FREP on Facebook**

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