

## FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Greetings from FREP

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

### Our Next Activity

Monday, March 9, 2020

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

**ONE EARTH  
FILM FESTIVAL**

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 [HERE](#), including a link for advance registration (recommended)**

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



Instead of a March Membership Meeting, we encourage you to attend:

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

Registration now open at this link: <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/2020-fox-river-summit>

\$40/including lunch and refreshments.

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

**Join us for this program -- and please invite youth to attend:**

**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!

**Thanks to all who participated in and attended our Noon Network on February 12th to discuss Lake/Pond Shoreline Management. FREP will be working on adding resources from this program to our website. Watch for news and a link.**

#### President's Message



**Do your friends know what a watershed is?**  
**Do you know what bio char is and what it can be used for?**  
**What did the Fox River look like 100 years ago?**  
**What is regenerative agriculture and what does it look like?**

So many questions I ask for you to think about – and to entice you to come out to upcoming FREP events and bring your friends where these questions will be discussed.

I highlighted our upcoming events in my last monthly message, but I'm going to do it again. These events are too important, and I think you'll find there's something to be learned to benefit our watershed for everyone. We know not everyone can do these things as a part of our day jobs, so 2 of the next 3 events are in the evenings.

Bio char and regenerative agriculture will be among the topics covered in our film – **The Need to GROW**. We have an estimated 60 years of farmable topsoil left on the planet . . . but the solutions are already here. This is the premise of this award-winning film. 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. And we will have Director/Filmmaker Rob Herring with us via Skype for discussion after viewing the film. Sign up online for your tickets now (donation of \$8 suggested) so you get a seat! [Details & Links HERE](#)

Then it’s on to Wisconsin to share a day with folks from the Wisconsin part of our watershed. This is our 8th annual Fox River Summit and we’ve got a great program planned. Registration is live at the link below.

You will get to see, via photographs, what certain sections of the Fox River looked like 100 years ago. Soil health, part of regenerative farming, will again be a topic at the Summit.

See <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/2020-fox-river-summit> for many of the details on the Summit program and for registration.

And then don’t forget that on 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 over 300 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!

I hope to see you all there. These events are open to all and are calls to action!  
**Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President**

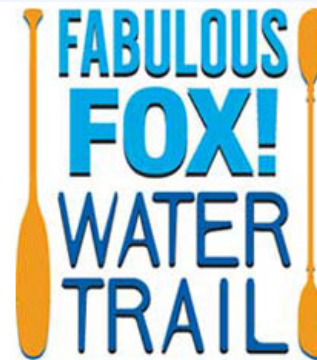
#### Watershed Partners/Links

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](#)

#### WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Initiative



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



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](mailto:millerkaren@co.kane.il.us).

For more information contact Karen Ann Miller at [millerkaren@co.kane.il.us](mailto:millerkaren@co.kane.il.us).

Visit our **Water Trail Initiative page** [HERE](#) **Trail Website:** [fabulousfoxwatertrail.org](http://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  
Bluestem Ecological Services  
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  
Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge  
Geneva Park District  
Geosyntec Consultants  
Kathleen Hamill & Teece Bowman, Friends, Elgin  
Ed & Sue Harney, Friends, Sleepy Hollow  
Hey and Associates  
Holly Hudson, Friend, Elgin  
ILM Environments  
Illinois Paddling Council

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  
Gloria Klimek, Friend, St. Charles  
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  
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](#).

### Watershed Planning

#### Indian Creek Watershed-based Planning

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently received a Clean Water Act grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a watershed-based plan for the Indian Creek watershed in collaboration with local stakeholders. Located on the east side of the Fox River, the approximately 14 square mile watershed straddles southeastern Kane and southwestern DuPage Counties and includes portions of two municipalities (Aurora and Batavia) and four townships (Aurora, Batavia, Naperville, and Winfield).

The purpose of this plan is to work with local stakeholders to develop planning, policy, outreach and education, and on-the-ground project recommendations that upon implementation will help improve and protect the water quality in Indian Creek, its tributaries, the numerous wetlands, lakes and ponds within the watershed, and the downstream Fox River. The plan must follow U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA guidelines, including meeting the "9 minimum elements" of a watershed-based plan, and is scheduled for completion in December 2021.

CMAP is currently working with planning partners Kane and DuPage Counties, the Cities of Aurora and Batavia, and Fermilab to fine tune the Indian Creek watershed boundary based on local topographic and drainage data and information. The boundary will define the area for which existing conditions will be mapped and analyzed and best practice recommendations identified. A steering committee is being formed, and the public will have several opportunities to participate in the planning process.

An Indian Creek Watershed Planning webpage will soon be up on the FREP website, and updates will be provided monthly through FREP's Downstream e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the contact list for Indian Creek Watershed-based Planning news and events, or have any questions about the project, please contact Holly Hudson.

#### Indian Creek Contact:

Holly Hudson, CMAP Project Manager, [hhudson@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmapp.illinois.gov), 312-836-8700

**9 Lakes Watershed Plan** [Webpage](#)

**Blackberry Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)

**Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)  
Contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: 312-386-8700,  
[hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmmap.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.

**Mill Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)  
Contact Holly Hudson, CMAP Project Manager,  
[hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov), 312-836-8700

**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](#)

### 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](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)

<b>Thursday</b> <b>Feb. 27, 2020</b> <b>8 AM - Noon</b>	<b>Beyond the Basics Seminar 2020: Designing for an Uncertain Future</b> The Conservation Foundation Abbington Distinctive Banquets 3S002 Route 53 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 FEE <a href="#">Registration</a>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>March 8, 2020</b> <b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Antique Apple Tree Grafting Seminar</b> Garfield Farm Museum FEE Call the museum at (630) 584-8485, or email at <a href="mailto:info@garfieldfarm.org">info@garfieldfarm.org</a> <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Monday</b> <b>March 9, 2020</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>One Earth Film Festival Screening -- Co-Sponsored by FREP</b> Waubensee Community College Aurora Downtown Campus Multipurpose Room, First Floor, 18 S. River St., Aurora, IL Details and link to ticket registration on our film page <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>Monday</b> <b>March 9, 2020</b> <b>8 AM - Noon</b>	<b>Winter Seminar presented by Kane-DuPage Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b> Elgin Community College Fee <a href="#">Registration Required</a> <a href="#">INFO</a>
<b>March 12-14, 2020</b>	<b>Illinois Lakes Management Association's 35th Annual Conference</b> iHotel & Conference Center, Champaign, IL <a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Registration Link</a>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>March 26, 2020</b>	<b>8th Annual Fox River Summit</b> Burlington, WI Register now <a href="#">HERE</a>
<b>April 14-20, 2020</b>	<b>2020 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference</b> , Center for Watershed Protection Austin, Texas <a href="#">Info/Registration</a>

Wild Ones of Northern Kane County  
presents  
**Start in Your Yard with Dr. Doug Tallamy**  
Saturday, 4 April 2020

10:00 - Noon  
The Centre of Elgin  
100 Symphony Way

Register  
**FREE**  
on Eventbrite

**NATURE'S  
BEST HOPE**

A New Approach  
to Conservation That  
Starts in Your Yard

**DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY**  
Bestselling author of *Bringing Nature Home*

**Wild Ones of Northern Kane County presents Dr. Doug Tallamy Saturday, April 4  
10:00 a.m. at The Centre of Elgin.**

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/start-in-your-yard-tickets-95013294321>

Tickets are free. Dr. Tallamy makes the case for starting in our own yards to rebuild wildlife habitat. Drawing on his rich background as a teacher, researcher, thinker and writer, he uses slides and stories to illustrate the critical importance of reconnecting with nature. His new book, **Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard**, elaborates his idea of creating a homegrown national park on our private properties. He envisions connecting fragmented habitats into corridors that allow wildlife to move from place to place as conditions change. Happily, converting our lawns into food for the insects that support our birds (and much more), requires no change to government or infrastructure. As E.O Wilson writes, "Tallamy is one of the most original and persuasive present-day authors on conservation." He is also one of the most inspiring and knowledgeable presenters, a speaker who stimulates us to think and to act. The event includes book sales and signing.

**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](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)

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

**FREP WEBSITE:** [foxriverecosystem.org](http://foxriverecosystem.org)



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