



# FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Greetings from FREP

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

## Our Next Activity

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 FREP Noon Network Noon to 1:30 PM

**Program:** Sterne's Woods and Fen Hydrologic Restoration

**Presenters:** Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Ann Viger, Crystal Lake Park District; Nicholas Jayne & Vince Mosca, Hey and Associates

**Location:** Sterne's Woods and Fen, Picnic Shelter, Hillside Road, East of Walkup Ave., Crystal Lake, IL  
[Map Link](#)

*(Note: If inclement weather, we will meet in the indoor facility at nearby Shamrock Hills Park, 6204 Hillside Road, Crystal Lake - watch the website that morning for an update if bad weather)*



Sterne's Woods and Fen is a designated Illinois Nature Preserve owned by the Crystal Lake Park District and managed by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

The restoration area is a calcareous groundwater-fed fen. Prior to the projects, the fen had developed a channel bisecting the critical habitat as a result of past development around the site and concentration of flow. The project consisted of installing elevated grade control structures in the channel, backfilling the channel to raise groundwater elevations, and restoring native fen hydrology.

Photo: Hey and Associates

A beautiful retreat to nature, Sterne's Woods was added to Illinois' list of Nature Preserves in 1994, which ensures a high level of protection to the natural areas. It welcomes nature enthusiasts to wander through its woodlands with a system of rugged walking trails, marked paths for biking, cross country skiing and wagons rides in the fall. McHenry County's Conservation District's Prairie Trail South passes through Sterne's Woods and Veteran Acres Park. A nearby parking area, picnic shelter and restroom makes this woodland easily accessible and convenient.

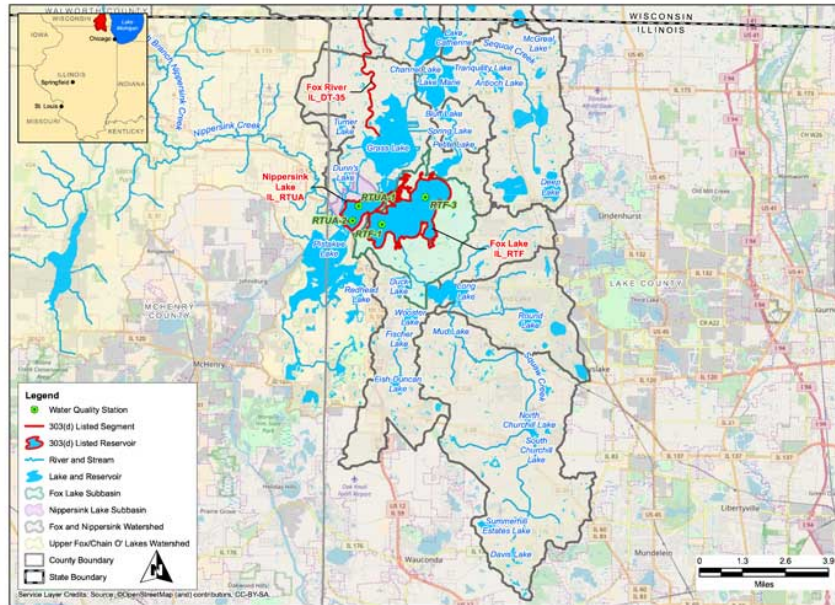
## Upcoming FREP Noon Networks & Membership Meetings

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 Membership Meeting 1 PM

**Program:** Upper Fox River/Flint Creek Watershed Draft Stage 3 TMDL Report

**Presenter:** Abel Haile, IEPA

**Location:** Port Barrington Village Hall  
75 South Circle Avenue, Port Barrington, IL 60010



**DRAFT**  
**CDM Smith**  
Upper Fox/Chain O' Lakes  
Fox Lake and Nippersink Lake Subbasins  
FIGURE 1-12

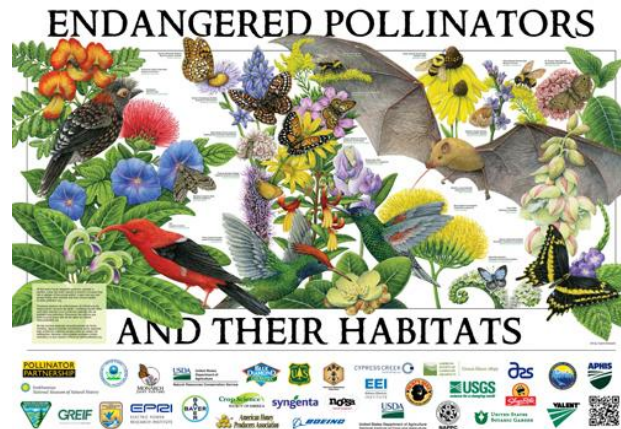
Abel Haile of the Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section, Planning Unit will discuss the Total Maximum Daily Loads that have been developed for over 40 lakes located in the Fox River Watershed in Lake County. The TMDLs also include stretches of the Fox River in Lake and McHenry counties. TMDLs set pollution reduction goals that are necessary to improve the quality of impaired waters.

Read more about the TMDLs: at [this site](#), search for Upper Fox-Chain O' Lakes Watershed and Upper Fox River-Flint Creek Watershed.

FREP Executive Committee will meet at 11 AM

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 FREP Noon Network Noon - 1:30 PM

**Program:** Batavia High School Pollinator Garden  
**Presenter:** Daniel Renz, Batavia High School Environmental Science & Biology Teacher  
**Location:** Batavia High School, 1201 Main St, Batavia, IL 60510  
Parking and gathering place TBD



Tour the Pollinator Garden that has been created on Batavia High School property with Batavia High School teacher Dan Renz.

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019** FREP Membership Meeting 1 PM

**Program:** Fox River Corridor Plan  
**Presenter:** Katie Evasic and Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP  
**Location:** Cary Village Hall, Board Room, 655 Village Hall Dr., Cary, IL 60013

FREP Executive Committee will meet at 11 AM

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



Now we're in the hot "dog days" of summer. I apologize that we had to cancel our canoe/kayak outing this month. These trips are best planned for morning or evening, and not in the heat of the day – which was my bad for trying to keep it somewhat in a "normal" FREP gathering timeslot. We will explore rescheduling it for a more suitable time and weather conditions if there is interest. We had 13 people signed up to go, but most of them were colleagues and friends of Paul Anderson who were from Taiwan. It would have been a very fun and interesting conversation if we had been able to go.

We have a solid schedule of programs for the remaining meetings and noon networks in 2019. Please see elsewhere in this Downstream and on our web page for more details. We need to start planning for 2020 and as I said in my message last month, I want to seek your input. I didn't get any suggestions yet. We need to keep FREP relevant, and I want to be sure we're providing programs that meet our members and friends needs and interests. So please let me know of any ideas you have for FREP Noon Networks, meeting program topics, or other activities we should pursue. I want to make it so that FREP meetings and Noon Networks are something you want to attend and prioritize on your calendar – but to do so, we need your input on what topics are of that level of interest to you. Our attendance over the last year or two has varied from 5 to 80 people – indicating quite a difference in level of interest.

This will also be another little test to see who's actually reading this column. Call, text, or email. 815-451-8352  
[jmengler@hevassoc.com](mailto:jmengler@hevassoc.com)

**Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President**

#### Watershed Partners/Links

Illinois: [Friends of the Fox River](#) [Fox River Study Group](#) [Fox Valley Sustainability Network](#)  
Wisconsin: [Southeast Fox River Partnership](#) [Southeastern Wisc Fox River Commission](#) [Illinois Fox River Group](#)

my part of the watershed  
Send us a photo from your part of  
the Fox River Watershed  
and we'll feature it in a future  
**Downstream**

#### Monthly feature in the *Downstream*

Help us share the beauty and activities in our  
Fox River Watershed

**We want a photo from YOU!**

Email your jpg to Becky Hoag at [foxriverinfo@comcast.net](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)  
Please provide your name, photographer's name (if different),  
and the location & county, and in what season it was taken

my part of the watershed





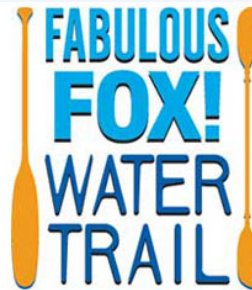
Sterne's Fen, Crystal Lake

Photo from Hey and Associates

**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 next Core Development Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8th from Noon to 4:00 PM at Village of Burlington, Wisconsin Public Works Building, 2200 S. Pine St.

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**

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

*(showing dues received as of 7/31/19)*

**Dues statements for 2019-20 were sent out to current members in June**

**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  
Barrington Area Council of Governments  
Batavia Park District  
Thomas Berres, Friend, DeKalb  
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD  
City of Aurora  
City of Batavia  
City of Elgin  
City of Geneva  
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  
Sarah Duple, Friend, East Dundee  
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Oswego  
Fox River Water Reclamation District, South Elgin

Hey and Associates  
Holly Hudson, Friend, Elgin  
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District  
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Living Waters Consultants  
McHenry County Conservation District  
North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation Dist  
Oswegoland Park District  
Jason Pettit, Friend, Aurora  
Larry Rakunus, Friend, St. Charles  
St. Charles Park District  
Jack Shouba, Friend, St. Charles  
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter & Valley of the Fox  
Cindy Skrukud, Friend, Richmond  
The Conservation Foundation  
Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition  
Village of Millbrook  
Village of Oakwood Hills  
Village of Port Barrington  
Village of Round Lake  
Village of Sleepy Hollow

## 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, is coordinating the development of a watershed-based plan for the Mill Creek Watershed in east-central Kane County. FREP is assisting with communications for this effort and will be posting 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, [hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov), 312-836-8700

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

Photo of Mill Creek at Rt. 31 by Mooseheart, by Ken Gortowski



**UPDATE:** A first draft of the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan was submitted to the Illinois EPA on July 1, 2019. In addition to an updated watershed resource inventory, the plan includes sections outlining recommended watershed protection activities and criteria for documenting success towards achieving plan goals. Over the next two months, details associated with site-specific best management practices (BMPs) submitted by stakeholders will be added to the plan, along with estimated pollutant load reductions and planning level costs for applicable BMPs. Interim milestones and criteria for determining progress will also be specified following further steering committee input. The final plan is scheduled for completion in September 2019.

Outreach to communities and organizations with a stake in the Mill Creek watershed continued throughout July to identify opportunities for planning, policy, education, monitoring, and on-the-ground best management practices (BMPs) to help protect and improve water and habitat quality. During the past month, CMAP staff met with the Geneva Park District, Mill Creek Water Reclamation District, Garfield Farm Museum, City of Batavia, St. Charles Park District, City of Geneva, City of St. Charles, Kane Co. Farmland Protection program, The Conservation Foundation, Fox River Study Group, and Kane Co. Farm Bureau. A key component of watershed-based plans, BMPs identified in these plans become eligible for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant funds through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Eligibility for other grant and technical assistance programs also is enhanced.

Meetings with interested stakeholder organizations and groups are being scheduled through mid-August to gather BMP ideas to include in the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan. BMPs can include water quality related on-the-ground projects, policy and planning updates, monitoring programs, and public information/education/outreach products or activities. If you would like to schedule an in-person meeting or phone conversation with CMAP staff, please contact Holly Hudson by August 10, 2019.

Also during July, Kane County and CMAP staff continued conducting field assessments of stormwater detention basins to document various characteristics including shoreline erosion, buffer condition, maintenance needs, and retrofit opportunities that could help improve water quality. Assessments will continue during August, and this information will be added to the watershed resource inventory chapter in the watershed plan.

The first draft of the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan has been posted to the FREP website [HERE](#)

If you have any questions about the project, comments on the draft plan, would like to schedule a stakeholder meeting to provide BMP input, or would like to be added to the contact list for Mill Creek Watershed-based Planning news and events, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: [hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov) 312-386-8700

## Subwatershed Links

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

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

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

**Person-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](#)

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](#)

## 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>Sunday</b> <b>August 4</b>	<b>27th Annual Antique Tool Show &amp; Sale at Garfield Farm Museum</b> Garfield Rd., LaFox, IL (just west of St. Charles off Rt. 38) FEE <a href="#">Website</a>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>August 10</b>	<b>The Conservation Foundation's Annual Farm to Fork Dinner at McDonald Farm, Naperville</b> FEE <a href="#">Registration Required</a>

## Thinking about going solar?



Kane County is working with the Citizens Utility Board and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to make solar accessible to County residents and businesses. To do this, CUB and MREA have implemented the Solarize Chicagoland program in close coordination with Kane County. Solar Power Hours are being conducted throughout the County to explain the basics of solar, the financial aspects of going solar, and the Solarize program.

Kane County will be hosting one of these Solar Power Hours on **Tuesday, August 13 from 7:00 – 8:30pm at the Kane County Government Center Auditorium, 719 S. Batavia Avenue Geneva, IL 60134.**

Please share this opportunity with those in your network who are interested in learning more about going solar!

[Website for Solarize Chicagoland](#) with schedule of other Solar Power Hours in the area

**EPA Announces 2019 Campus RainWorks Challenge**

EPA is pleased to announce the rules for the 8th annual Campus RainWorks Challenge, a green infrastructure design competition for United States institutions of higher education that seeks to engage with the next generation of environmental professionals, foster a dialogue about the need for innovative stormwater management techniques, and showcase the environmental, economic, and social benefits of green infrastructure practices. Stormwater pollution is a problem that impacts public health and water quality in communities across the country. The Campus RainWorks Challenge invites today's students to become part of the solution.

To learn more about Campus RainWorks visit <https://www.epa.gov/campusrainworks> and check out the official 2019 Campus RainWorks Challenge Competition Brief. The brief contains details on the challenge's design categories, submission requirements, and rules for participation. Submission deadline December 17, 2019

**Tips on how to properly recycle:** Video prepared by the Illinois Task Force for Recycling Contamination, shared by Kane County Recycling.

**Illinois Environmental Council's**

Environmental Executive Report: Recommendations for the Illinois Governor - 2019-2022

**Prairie Rivers Network:** RiverWeb News

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)



**FREP on Facebook**

This newsletter is posted on the FREP Website on the [Downstream Newsletter Archives Page](#)