

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Greetings from FREP

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

Our Next Activity

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4 PM - ? Holiday Social Gathering



Location: [River's Edge Bar & Grill](#)
12 North River Street, Batavia [Website](#)

We hope you can join us for our annual holiday social gathering. We will meet with River's Edge owner Melissa Monno and learn about their efforts to provide locally-sourced food, craft beers, and reduce their use of plastics, as much as they can.

Please RSVP to Becky at foxriverinfo@comcast.net or 630-482-9157 so we can have enough tables arranged for our group. Order/pay for what you'd like.

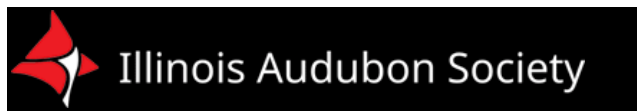


Upcoming FREP Activities

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 FREP Membership Meeting, Annual Elections 1 PM

Location: The Centre, Elgin
Heritage Ballroom, Lower Level
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, 60120

Program: The Decline of Migratory Birds and Climate Change – What can we expect and do in the Fox Valley?
Presenter: Jim Herkert, Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society



The Illinois Audubon Society was organized as an independent, state-wide, educational and scientific organization, incorporated April 10, 1897, by the State of Illinois. Their mission is "to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native flora and fauna of Illinois and the habitats that support them." Fundamental to this end are the control of pollution, the conservation of energy and all natural resources, a sound ecological relationship between human populations and their environments, and the education and involvement of the public in such efforts.

[Illinois Audubon Society website](#) **Local chapter webpages:**
[Kane County Audubon Society](#) [Lake-Cook Audubon Society](#) [McHenry County Audubon Society](#)
[Starved Rock Audubon Society](#) [Will County Audubon Society](#)

FREP Executive Committee will meet at 11 AM

NOTE: The annual elections will be conducted at the Jan. 8th meeting. Our Slate of Officers will be posted on the FREP website soon, and listed in the December Downstream.

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: Keith Jones, V3 Companies; Bill Bedrosian, Bedrock EarthScapes;
Representative from Fox Valley Park District; additional panelists to be named



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.

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](#)

Now posted on our website, the presentation from our November 13th meeting:

[Fox River Corridor Plan from Burtons Bridge to Fox Bluff](#)

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



How did you all do on imagining a day with out water? I hope at least a few of you gave that some thought in response to my message last month. And even talked to others about it.

As we continue to work to improve our water quality using tools like the TMDL, and even address our water quantity to meet future demands, there are a lot of questions we need to ask and wrestle with:

How much microplastics are in our Fox River water?
Are there ways to remove it or to remove pharmaceuticals?
How much more flooding will we have with climate change over the next decade?
How can we make our watershed more resilient?

Facing global climate change, science-deniers, and a massive rollback in federal environmental protections, there are monumental challenges to address. But we must seek to find local positives, solutions, and inspiration to address these challenges as those before us addressed the huge challenges of their day. I hope that we're not forgetting about The Fox, who made his point by clogging sewer pipes discharging raw sewage and industrial waste directly to the Fox River. Sometimes we need to think outside the box and outside the pipe.

We definitely don't have the answers, but I hope you'll join us throughout 2020 as FREP seeks to facilitate information exchange, creative solutions, collaboration, and a more resilient watershed. Please put the 8th Annual Fox River Summit on your calendar for March 26th, and our 4th annual participation in the One Earth Film Festival for March 9th.

Finally, I invite you all to join us for our annual FREP holiday gathering on December 4th at 4pm at Batavia's River's Edge Bar and Grill. Join us as we learn from proprietor Melissa Monno's efforts at local farm to table cuisine and to eliminate single use plastics from her business. Please RSVP to Becky Hoag at foxriverinfo@comcast.net so we can be sure to have enough seats at the table.

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](#)

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
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

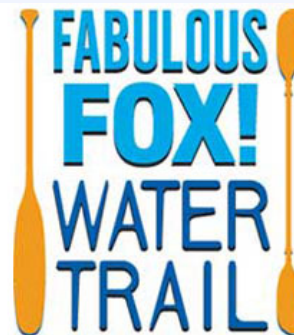


Batavia Depot Pond/Riverwalk Winter Mike Hoag

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.

Watch for an update in the next *Downstream*.

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 89% 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 11/25/19)

TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES/TO JOIN FREP:

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

A printable/available form [HERE](#)

Links to member websites are provided, when available

Michael Ander, Friend, Sleepy Hollow
Paul Anderson, Friend, Geneva
Applied Ecological Services

Kane Co. Development & Community Services Dept.
Kane County Farm Bureau
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
June Keibler, Friend, Dundee
 Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
 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
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 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, 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, hudson@cmap.illinois.gov,
 312-836-8700

[CMAP page on Mill Creek](#)

[FREP's Mill Creek page](#)

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



UPDATE: The final draft of the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan and an executive summary is available on FREP's [Mill Creek webpage](#) under the "Resources & Documents" section.

If you have any questions about the project or would like to discuss Plan implementation ideas and opportunities, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: hudson@cmap.illinois.gov or 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,
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.

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

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

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 Watch for details in January
Thursday March 26, 2020	8th Annual Fox River Summit Burlington, WI Details to come
April 14-20, 2020	2020 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference , Center for Watershed Protection Austin, Texas Info/Registration

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

Sustainability and Yard Management Jessica Mino, Kane County Resource Management Coordinator, contributes a **Step-By-Step Sustainability** series to the **Kane County Connects** e-newsletter. Her latest column is **STEP-BY-STEP SUSTAINABILITY: THINK GREEN WHEN YOU GET YOUR HOME AND YARD READY FOR WINTER**. A good guide as we all face piles of leaves right now.

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

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

FREP WEBSITE: foxriverecosystem.org

 **FREP on Facebook**

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