



## FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

Monday, December 23, 2019

Holiday Greetings from FREP

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

### Our Next Activity

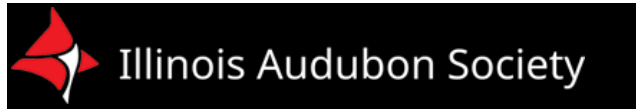
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 FREP Membership Meeting, Annual Elections 1 PM

**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



Jim Herkert is the Executive Director of the Illinois Audubon Society, a position he has held since 2016. The Society is Illinois's oldest conservation organization. Prior to joining Illinois Audubon, he worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. Herkert received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Champaign (Department of Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution). He is a Fellow in the American Ornithological Society and has authored over 70 publications, with most of these focused on the conservation and management of grassland birds.

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

#### 2020 Slate of Officers

Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, **President**  
Nancy Williamson, Friends of Hackmatack NWR, **Vice President**  
Carolyn Campbell, McHenry County Conservation District, **Secretary**  
Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District, **Treasurer**  
Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, **Past President**

### Upcoming FREP Activities

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.

Monday, March 9, 2020 One Earth Film Festival Screening



**Location:** Waubensee Community College Aurora Downtown Campus Multipurpose Room, First Floor  
18 S. River St., Aurora, IL

FREP is co-sponsoring this screening and our 4th year to be part of the film festival.

The film that has been selected will be announced in January and ticket registration will be available online.

Watch for details in the next Downstream and on our [film webpage](#).

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



**Location:** Veterans Terrace at Echo Park, Burlington, WI

Registration and more details coming in January. Note, the Summit is on a **Thursday**, not the traditional Friday 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 be signing her book, **America, Can I Have Your Autograph?**

[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



As we wind down in 2019, I want to thank you all for your support and involvement in FREP this year. Special thanks to Nancy Cox for serving as our secretary for the past year, and to Maggie Soliz for serving as our Vice President for the last few years. FREP has made it for 23 years thanks for the support and commitment of folks like you.

But as we head into 2020, we face unprecedented challenges with the affects of climate change and related issues like plastics pollution. As Swedish activist Greta Thunberg keeps pointing out, we must act now and not keep thinking and talking about it. I want FREP to have an epic year in 2020, working with our partners to have an impact in our watershed. We're working on putting together a strong program of meeting and Noon Network topics and presentations. At each month's FREP gathering, I want to challenge us all as to what ACTIONS we can take. Every little bit helps, and we all need to change our ways and our habits, even if we're already greener than most of our friends and family. We need to influence those friends and family by our actions which are much more effective than our words. And I really need all of you to help make FREP relevant and impactful in 2020.

In January, please spread the word and join us on the 8th at The Centre in Elgin to hear from Dr. Jim Herkert, the Executive Director of the Illinois Audubon Society. Prior to joining Illinois Audubon in 2016, Jim served as Director of the Office of Resource Conservation for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources since 2009, leading an office of over 240 resource professionals with an annual budget of over \$50 million. Prior to that he spent eight years with The Nature Conservancy, Illinois, including six as Director of Conservation Science, and 11 years on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

Jim is also a nationally recognized authority on grassland birds that breed in the Midwest, with many published scientific papers on the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on grassland species.

He will speak to us about the recent reports on the decline of migratory bird populations, and what that means in our Fox River watershed from the perspective of his vast conservation experience and knowledge as a leading ornithologist in Illinois. And of course, I will ask him about what we all can do to help.

Looking ahead, we have a panel discussion on shoreline management scheduled for our February Noon Network. For anyone who has a pond, lake, detention basin, or similar, we hope to have answers on best practices to reduce erosion, promote biodiversity, and improve water quality. The month of March brings us to our annual hosting of a One Earth Film Festival film screening at Waubensee Community College - Aurora on March 9th. Our film selection has not been finalized yet, but we're requesting a film that features a young girl as a persistent activist among others. The young will lead us.

And we're planning a great program for the 8th annual Fox River Summit on Thursday March 26 in Burlington Wisconsin. Check all the dates in this Downstream and please get these events marked on your calendars now, so you don't schedule over them. You won't want to miss a single FREP meeting or event in 2020. Your watershed needs your attention and commitment!

Holiday greetings to all.

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

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

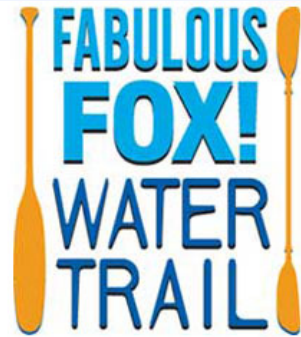


Looking east over Campton Prairie at Anderson Park, Campton Twp. Holly Hudson

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 meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, 1:00 to 3:00 at the Waterford, Wis. Village Hall.

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)



**Links to member websites are provided, when available**

<p>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 Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Geneva Park District Geosyntec Consultants Ed &amp; Sue Harney, Friends, Sleepy Hollow Hey and Associates Holly Hudson, Friend, Elgin ILM Environments Illinois Paddling Council</p>	<p>Kane Co. Development &amp; Community Services Dept. Kane County Farm Bureau Kane-DuPage Soil &amp; Water Conservation District Kendall County Soil &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Steve Byers, Friends, Lakewood</p>
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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@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hudson@cmapp.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**



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@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hudson@cmapp.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8700.

**Subwatershed Links**

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

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

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

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

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

<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 Watch for details in January
<b>Thursday</b> <b>March 26, 2020</b>	<b>8th Annual Fox River Summit</b> Burlington, WI Details to come
<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>

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](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**

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