

Cool City Carol Stream Coalition 2009-2011

By Jan Smith

People all over the world are joining in to alleviate climate change, including the Sierra Club, **350.org**, Environmental Defense, schools, churches and many others. There is a growing awareness and urgency among people, as the effects of increased greenhouse gas emissions are becoming more evident.

Sierra Club's citizen action program "Cool Cities" is such a great program – providing information resources and volunteer support. Being informed does not have to cost anything, and information can empower "ordinary" citizens to make a positive difference for our community and our planet.

The Cool City Carol Stream Coalition celebrated our two-year birthday on January 20, 2011, as we worked on strategic planning. In only two years we have helped make some significant changes in Carol Stream. We've been a presence to the Village Board, Park District, Carol Stream PTA, Woman's Club, Rotary Club, Fourth of July Parade, and even participated in a global demonstration sponsored by **350.org**.

The following are some of our significant accomplishments:

1. As a result of our urging, Carol Stream Village applied for and received a \$173,000 Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant which was used to improve energy efficiency at the Water Treatment Facility and to install LED street lights (estimated reduction of greenhouse gasses equivalent to taking 60 cars off the roads).

Cool City Carol Stream Coalition holding up "350" for the world-wide 350 demonstration organized by Bill McKibben before the Copenhagen meeting in December 2009.

(from left to right) Victoria Peletis, Lily Peletis, Dean Peletis, Pam Smith, Suzanne Carlstedt, Earl Smith, and Robert Guico.

Photo by Jan Smith

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[Http://illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg)

For activities, legislative action alerts, & outings information

We are on Facebook! Check out:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Prairie-Group_of_the_Sierra_Club/96257429851

Cool Cities, continued

2. We helped influence the Carol Stream Park District to build the planned recreation center to LEED Certification (Leader in Energy & Environmental Design).
3. We proposed that the Village Board partner with the CUB Energy Saver Program for homeowners to participate in an online program that will track their electric usage and give specific guidance on reducing their bills. Average savings have been \$200 per year. Also CUB (Citizen's Utility Board) held a free utility bill analysis with its experts at our Library on Thursday, Jan. 13. The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is a non-profit consumer group created by the State Legislature to fight for the rights of utility consumers through Illinois. For more information visit: www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

In 2005, former Carol Stream Mayor Ross Ferraro signed the U. S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. The current mayor, trustees and staff have supported a number of

"green initiatives," being the first municipality in DuPage County to be awarded an Earth Flag from the DuPage County Board. The Village has made progress on many of the items in the Mayors' Climate Protection agreement.

Hopefully, our village will implement the #1 item that can be accomplished locally, which is to prepare a local climate action plan with reduction targets based on a green house gas (GHG) emissions inventory. Recently the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has provided the needed GHG inventory to the village. Our village now has an opportunity to work with the Center for Neighborhood Technology, which is offering the needed information and tools to go forward on this number one local item in the agreement. This would be an important step for Cool City Carol Stream Coalition's growth as we enter our third year, working together for local solutions to climate change.

National Club Election Coming This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election web site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

Meet Your Ex-Com Members

Bonnie Blake

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years and an Executive Committee member for almost as long. I enjoy working with the other members of the River Prairie Group (RPG) and have been privileged to be involved in many projects and programs.

What I like best about being a member of our group is the feeling of doing something to help our environment, locally and countrywide. Many people only get involved if issues are personally affecting them. I have gotten involved because I feel that it is important to be aware and active on issues that impact our personal environment and also those issues, such as global warming, that impact our environment on a global level.

Through the Sierra Club and the RPG, I am more aware of these issues. Sometimes it does feel like you are just a small pebble in a large lake, hardly making any kind of wave at all. But I truly believe that we do make waves. If I can make one person aware of an issue and they can make another person aware of it, then I really have made a difference.

I would like to encourage other Sierra Club members, new or old members, to try to be active in some way, even if it is just to help make calls, hand out pamphlets, write letters or help at one of our tabling events. It really is a big help for us, and we just LOVE to see our members! That is one of the great things about the RPG, you can be as involved as you want or as little, depending on your available time and interest.

When I am not busy saving the planet, I also enjoy taking walks with my dog, visiting with my grandchildren and



Bonnie and her dog Lucy

Photo by Linda Sullivan

relaxing with a good book. My grandchildren laugh and call me a "tree hugger," a title I happily accept, but I have noticed that they too are more aware of their environment. That really makes me happy! They are our future, and I want to be sure it is a safe and good place for them.

Join the River Prairie Group Listserv!

We encourage everyone to sign up so you do not miss out on any of our news and activities. Stay up-to-date on the River Prairie Group's latest activities by joining our listserv. The listserv is open to anyone interested in finding out more about our group. The purpose of this list is to announce the activities, meetings, news and special events of the the Sierra Club's River Prairie Group, located in DuPage County, Illinois. The format of the list is for announcement and news distribution only, so members will receive but not be able to post messages.

Anyone interested in subscribing to this list can join in either of two ways:

Go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/IL-RPG-NEWS.html> and click on "Join or leave the list."

or send an email to: Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org

Leave the subject line blank, in the message area type: **SUBSCRIBE IL-RPG-NEWS Firstname Lastname**
(substitute your first and last names)

Green Drinks – Naperville Talks “Transition” for 2011

By Jodi Trendler

Every month people across the globe who are interested in the environmental field meet up at informal sessions known as Green Drinks. Green Drinks – Naperville, which was founded in February 2010, is just one of 750 worldwide networking chapters. It’s a lively mixture of people from business, NGOs, academia, aware citizens, and government. Our evenings start at 7:00 with networking. The presentation for the evening starts at 7:30 and concludes with a short Q&A. The Q&A is then followed with more networking.

Over the course of the past year, we have discovered that our attendees are already cognizant of the issues facing our planet and society. They are actually looking for solutions, which is why we, as organizers, decided upon the Transition Town theme for this year. The Transition Town initiative provides a solid philosophical foundation that is solution focused, and also very optimistic in outlook.

The Transition concept emerged in Ireland from work that permaculture designer Rob Hopkins had done with the students of Kinsale Further Education College in writing an “Energy Descent Action Plan”. This looked at across-the-board creative adaptations in the realms of energy production, health, education, economy, and agriculture as a “road map” to a sustainable future for the town of about 7,500 people. Two of his students, Louise Rooney and Catherine Dunne, set about developing the transition town concept and took the far-reaching step of presenting it to Kinsale Town Council, resulting in the historic decision by councilors to adopt the plan and work towards energy independence.

The idea was adapted and expanded through 2006 and beyond in Hopkins’ hometown of Totnes where he is now based. The initiative spread quickly, and as of May 2010, there are over 300 communities recognized as official Transition Towns. In the US there are over 77 “official” Transition Towns that have committed as a municipality to reducing their dependency on oil and have established specific plans to accomplish this goal. Some cities include L.A., San Francisco, Portland (Maine and Oregon), Pittsburgh, Fort Collins, Ann Arbor, Austin, Boulder, and Seattle to name a few. Additionally, there are several hundred other cities in what is considered the “mulling” phase prior to becoming official.

The Transition model is based on a loose set of real world principles and practices that have been built up over time through experimentation and observation of communities as they drive forward to reduce carbon emissions and build community resilience. Underpinning the model is recognition of the following:

- Peak Oil, Climate Change, and the Economic Crisis all require urgent action.
- Adaptation to a world with less oil is inevitable.
- It is better to plan and be prepared, than be taken by surprise.
- Industrial society has lost the resilience to be able to cope with shocks to its systems.
- We have to act together and we have to act now.
- We must negotiate our way down from the “peak” using all our skill, ingenuity, and intelligence.
- Using our creativity and cooperation to unleash the collective genius within our local communities will lead to a more abundant, connected, and healthier future for all – AND WE CAN HAVE FUN DOING IT!
- The Transition Movement believes that it is up to us in our local communities to step into a leadership position on this situation.

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Meeting Dates & Topics

January 26	Welcome Back and Introduction to Transition Town Concept
February 23	How Will We Feed Ourselves? OUR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!
March 30	How Will We Do Business?
April 27	How Will We Harness Energy?
May 25	How Will We Make and Build Things?
June 29	How Will We Heal Ourselves?
July 27	How Will We Travel?
August 31	How Will We Build and Make Things?
September 28	How Will We Govern Ourselves?
October 26	How Will We Waste Less?
Nov./Dec. (TBD)	How Will We Entertain Ourselves?

Green Drinks, continued

As organizers, our hope is that by using the Green Drinks – Naperville platform, we will be able to inform, connect, and inspire enough people so that by the end of the year there will be sufficient interest to work toward formalizing the initiative in Naperville. Typically there is a four step process to becoming an official “Transition Town”:

- 1) An “Initiating Committee” steps up to spearhead the process. This is typically a small handful of people who are willing to use their networking abilities and bring key community stakeholders together for discussions.
- 2) Work groups are set up based upon community needs. This could consist of groups that focus on food, health, transportation, business, government, and so on.
- 3) Each of these workgroups then goes on to determine an actual “Energy Descent Plan” that sets up the outline for reducing community dependency on oil and other limited resources.
- 4) The Energy Descent Plan is put into action.

This is a typical scenario, but every community is different and may find different ways to approach the planning. The topics we have chosen for Green Drinks – Naperville are ones that we feel are highly relevant to our community, and the presenters for the year not only have extensive knowledge base, but are also well positioned community stakeholders.

We invite everyone to join us and you will be made welcome – TEE TOTALERS TOO. It’s a great way of catching up with people you know and also for making new contacts. Everyone invites someone else along, so



*We at Green Drinks
firmly believe
the Transition philosophy:*

TOGETHER we CAN make a difference, and...

*If we wait for government, it will be too little too late
If we act individually, it will be too little*

*If we act as a COMMUNITY,
it might be just enough – just in time.*

there’s always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, ever expanding network. The events are very casual, and food and drinks are on your own. There is no fee to participate. Green Drinks – Naperville meets the last Wednesday of every month. We will be varying our venue occasionally this year so be sure to check the website for each event location at: www.greendrinks.org/il/naperville. All Green Drinks chapters can be found at www.greendrinks.org.

*The official handbook of the movement by Rob Hopkins is available at:
<http://andersons2.indiebound.com/book/9781900322188>*

For further Transition Town information:

50 minute video from UK: <http://vimeo.com/8029815>

2009 NY Times article: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/magazine/19town-t.html?pagewanted=2&_r=2

Great local video/info: <http://www.midwestpermaculture.com/TransitionIllinois.php>

UK Founding Transition: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

US Transition Network: <http://transitionus.org/transition-101>

Green Drinks – Naperville organizers (Jodi Trendler, Kenneth King, and Amy Coffman-Phillips) can be reached at greendrinksnapervilleil@gmail.com.

Local Food

Shortening the Distance Between Farm and Table:

*How Backyard
Gardens, CSAs, &
Farmers Markets
are Changing
the Way We Eat*

By Lonnie Morris

The simple act of serving a family meal has taken on global dimensions, with food traveling an estimated 1500 miles to the dinner plate, consuming considerable amounts of fuel for transportation, refrigeration and packaging.

Illinois may be known for corn and soy beans, but an increasing number of farmers are turning to growing vegetables and fruit for the expanding local food market. Local food has become a hot topic with new terms like locavore, food shed and community supported agriculture (CSA) joining the conversation and signaling new ways of thinking about choices that go beyond traditional grocery store shopping.

The shortest distance between farm and table is food from your back yard. When populations became increasingly urban, homegrown food fell out of favor. Perhaps due to the combined forces of shifting economic fortunes and greater awareness of the benefits of locally grown organic vegetables, home gardening has seen dramatic increases in recent years. According to the National Gardening Association, there is "a grow-it-yourself trend that is germinating a 19% increase in home gardening..."

In the summer of 2009, Aileen Eilert filled a wagon with tomato plants, pepper plants, and the slogan, "Grow Food, Not Lawns" and headed off to bring the local food message to her neighbors. She quickly learned many of them were already converts and growing their own food.

Aileen, a gardener with vegetables, peach trees and egg laying hens, is an example of an urban homesteader, a movement aimed at promoting sustainable self-sufficiency in urban settings. In February, she was still eating butternut and buttercup squash harvested from the garden in fall and safely stored in the basement.

Since not everyone is a gardener, many people are turning to farmers markets and community supported agriculture for vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat. In a CSA, farmers sell a share of their harvest to "subscribers" who in turn, receive a weekly box of produce and/or meat, cheese and eggs.

CSA subscriber, Emily Prasad used her skill as a researcher to decide how to make changes to improve the sustainability of her life style. She discovered that food and transportation created the majority of her family's

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CSAs, continued

environmental impact. With limited gardening space available in a shady back yard, she signed up for a CSA, selecting Genesis Growers for the convenience of its drop off location. Genesis is located in Iroquois county near Kankakee and delivers to several DuPage locations, including Downers Grove, Naperville and Wheaton. Convenience of pickup can be a factor in making a CSA membership work for your family.

For Ed and Diane Dassow, joining a CSA was a matter of principle. "If we want local growers to supply veggies," said Diane, "we need to look for ways to put our dollars there instead of giving to a grocery store and getting packaged food from other countries."

Joining a CSA may start as a matter of principle, but once there, many people have found it brings welcome changes in shopping and eating routines. With an active three year old, Emily is pleased about reducing the number of trips to the supermarket. "I didn't realize how much I disliked going to the grocery store," she said, "until I was able to limit my trips."

Many CSA subscribers even grow to enjoy the element of surprise in what arrives in the weekly CSA box. "It's like Christmas every week," said Emily. "I don't know what's going to be in the box." CSA subscriber Nancy Allured agrees; one of the benefits of being a member is "...the excitement of receiving a variety of fresh, straight-from-the-farm vegetables. I was also intrigued by the mystery of each week's bounty, wondering what would come next."

With the abundance of produce available year round, the consumer's connection to the seasonality of food has been diminished. A craving for fresh asparagus in December can be satisfied, strawberries appear on the grocer's shelf in February. Behind the novelty of off-season foods lies a system of production and transportation that has stripped away the anticipation of and delight in field ripened fruits and vegetables. CSA membership restores connection to seasonal rhythms. Emily, for example, was delighted by the first cauliflower of the season, a vegetable she had found "ho-hum" before CSA membership. Its preparation took on special importance, requiring extra thought to honor a vegetable that had required an entire season of cultivation and care. In addition, finding new recipes for what arrives in the box can be part of the fun.



Sofia Logacho enjoys a day of apple picking at More Than Delicious Orchard in Woodstock. U-pick orchards are another good source of local food.

Photo by Danielle Logacho

CSAs present their own challenges and may not be for everyone. They're for adventurous eaters who can rise to the challenge of unfamiliar vegetables, sometimes in abundant quantities.

If a CSA doesn't fit your eating style, shopping at a farmers' market provides a popular way of purchasing local food. The USDA reports the number of farmers markets has more than doubled in the last decade, increasing by 16% from 2009 to 2010.

Municipalities understand the link between local food and local economies. Several communities such as Evanston, Oak Park and Urbana have markets managed by their economic development departments. The payoff has been vibrant, with popular markets functioning as weekly community events. According to Lisa Bralts, manager of the Market at the Square, the Urbana farmers' market is attracting between 6,000 and 8,000 weekly attendees.

There are several ways of adding more local food to your diet but whether the fruit comes from your garden, CSA box or farmers market, it'll be good for the environment, good for you and a boost to the local economy. It's a peach of a deal.

Local Food

*An Interview
with Peg Sheaffer*



Community supported agriculture is a partnership between a farmer growing a wide variety of vegetables and members who buy a share of a season's harvest.

Matt and Peg Sheaffer own Sandhill Organics, a CSA located in Prairie Crossing with deliveries to several suburban locations.

www.sandhillorganics.com

In this interview, Peg shares her experience of being a CSA farmer.

Please describe how you came to be a CSA farmer. Did you start out to be a traditional farmer or was having a CSA your goal from the beginning?

I did not grow up on a farm. I became interested in agricultural policy and food systems when I took a series of Agricultural Economics courses during my time at UW-Madison in the mid-1990s. Some fellow students and I learned about the idea of CSA and decided to visit a local CSA farm. I was immediately taken with the idea. Gradually I became more interested in the practical side of farming rather than the policy side, so I took a job at Harmony Valley Farm, a large CSA farm near Viroqua, Wisconsin. Matt also happened to be working at HVF that season and that's how we met. Since the CSA model was my introduction to farming, it's the type of farming that I'm most familiar with.

How did you learn to be a CSA farmer?

After working for a season at HVF, Matt and I both worked for one season at another large CSA farm near Stillwater, MN. (It was called Red Cardinal Farm and they are no longer in business.) Those two seasons were a crash course in CSA farming for us. I firmly believe that you can't really learn this kind of thing from reading books. After that season we started our own farm, but we didn't begin the CSA program until four years later.

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Local Food, continued

I just finished reading ***The Seasons on Henry's Farm*** by Terra Brockman and was amazed at how hard many people work to supply vegetables for a CSA and to bring to farmers' markets. I gained a deep appreciation for how important CSA farmers are to their community of members.

Could you describe what it's like for you being a CSA farmer? What is your role on the farm?

I love being a CSA farmer. There's no job in the world I would rather do. Sure, there are times when it's difficult. There are certain variables in farming that farmers have little or no control over. These often have to do with weather. So, yes, it's tough when things don't go our way. The beauty of CSA, though, is that it allows us some measure of flexibility. For example, if the arugula that we had planned to put in the box one week gets ruined by a hard rain, we can just substitute with some other wonderful item that wasn't affected by the rain. That flexibility gives us great peace of mind in the face of adversity.

When we first started out, Matt and I wanted to share all of the tasks and responsibilities equally. So we both drove tractors, both harvested crops, both made sales calls, and both worked in the office. Then we had kids!! Eventually we learned that we'd be happier if we each specialized in the areas that meshed with our individual strengths and the needs of our family. So now Matt manages all of our field production while I manage the greenhouse, post-harvest handling, CSA member communication, writing the newsletter and everything related to the business side of things. It's a division of labor that works really well for us.

I understand the many benefits of being a CSA member. What are the benefits of being a CSA farmer?

First of all, if it weren't for the dependable income that our CSA provides, we might not be farming at all. Secondly, while the challenge of growing so many different crops can at times seem daunting, the benefit is that this job is never boring! There's always so much variety in my day and so much to learn. Finally, we love getting to

know many of the people who eat the food that we grow. It's such a special connection. Sometimes when a day has been particularly challenging, one great conversation with an enthusiastic CSA member is all it takes to lift my spirits. It can make all the difference in the world. That's why I really enjoy CSA pickup day on the farm. It's a day when my batteries get recharged. I also enjoy writing our weekly farm journal, taking photos of the farm, and collecting recipes. I share all of these things in our weekly newsletter so that even members who aren't able to make it out to the farm can have a connection to us. It makes me happy because it gives me an outlet for my creativity and it makes our members happy because they get to know more about how their food is grown.



Photos by Diane Dassow

Party to Protect the Environment

By Lonnie Morris



Within an easy drive of downtown Chicago, Connie and Michael Schmidt are living a rural lifestyle on Twin Star Ranch, their 3-acre urban homestead in Warrenville. Twin Star Ranch will be open to the public on Sunday, May 22, from 2 – 7:00 pm as a fundraiser for the Illinois Sierra Club. Music will be provided by The Almost Brothers Band and songwriter, acoustic guitarist Michael Schmidt.

Since Connie and Michael Schmidt moved to Warrenville in 1983, Twin Star Ranch has become home to three horses, a flock of chickens, bunnies and dogs. Over the years, many of the chickens coming to live on the ranch were unwanted hatchlings from classroom egg incubating projects. Caring for the animals requires three daily trips to the barn. "I like animals in my life," said Connie, "it forces me to go outside no matter how hot or cold. I feel like I'm a part of nature, a part of the weather."

Connie is pleased to offer the opportunity for Twin Star guests to visit with her animals. Her love of horses began as a child but her contact with them was limited. "I grew up in Riverside and

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*Singer-songwriter Michael Schmidt performing at Party on the Farm
Photo by Brad Hill*

Party, continued

appreciated the friends and strangers who gave me a chance to pet their horses," Connie said. "Having Party on the Farm, I'm able to return the favor to children who love horses but don't have one of their own."

Party on the Farm originated several years ago when Adam St. James, a local guitar teacher and committed environmentalist was looking for a way to put his talent to use for the environment. His band, *The Almost Brothers Band*, is a successful, west suburban band playing at clubs from Naperville to Plainfield and beyond. They play festivals throughout the warmer months. The Sierra Club is honored that The Almost Brothers band is donating their time to play for this event.

Sierra Club is the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States and has been instrumental in protecting America's wilderness areas and natural resources since 1892. Locally, Sierra Club members of the River Prairie Group (RPG) have been monitoring water quality of the East Branch of the Dupage, West Branch of the DuPage and Salt Creek for ten years. The data has been used by the Illinois EPA as part of an ongoing statewide assessment of Illinois waterways.

The RPG offers expertly guided outings which are open to the public, periodic educational programs, lobbies on behalf of environmental legislation, endorses candidates with proven commitments to protecting the environment for public office and works with several DuPage municipalities on improving energy efficiency



Visitors to Twin Star Ranch meeting one of the horses

Photo by Michael Schmidt

through the Cool Cities program. More information about the RPG and how to become involved is available at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/rpg>

People who have attended Party on the Farm have become enthusiastic supporters. "I never miss the Party on the Farm," says Linda Sullivan. "There's great music, it's a great cause and brings great people together! I love watching the children enjoying the farm animals and getting into the music played right up close. It's a wonderful party!"

Funds raised from Party on the Farm fund Illinois Sierra Club initiatives.

Party on the Farm

Sunday May 22, 2011, from 2 – 7:00 pm

3 S. 501 Landon Drive, Warrenville

\$15.00 for one adult, \$25.00 for two adults, children are free

Soft drinks provided.

Guests are invited to bring refreshments and a dish to share.

Calendar of Events

River Prairie Group Earth Day Events

Would you like to help? We are always looking for volunteers to help with each of these worthwhile events. You will meet some very interesting and knowledgeable people. Contact Bruce Blake – Programs Chair: Rllnstns1@aol.com or **630-629-2520**

Saturday, April 9 – Believe in Green Environmental Expo**

10:00 am-3:00 pm, Clarendon Hills Middle School, 301 Chicago Avenue, Clarendon Hills

District 181 Foundation sponsored this event in order to educate and inspire community members to make environmentally-conscious lifestyle changes. The expo will feature: student exhibits and performances, eco-friendly products and services, family-oriented exhibits, demonstrations & speakers and recycling of electronics, documents, bicycles, alkaline batteries, crayons and more. For more information visit: www.d181foundation.org.

Saturday, April 16 – League of Women Voters Superfund Event**

2:00-4:30 pm, Billy Graham Center, 500 College Avenue, Wheaton

For Earth Week 2011, the League of Women Voters of Wheaton and A Rocha of Wheaton College will present **TAR CREEK**. **TAR CREEK** is a documentary about an environmental disaster in Pitcher, Oklahoma. Following the film, there will be a panel discussion contrasting the Tar Creek failure with the successfully cleaned up Superfund sites in DuPage County. For further information about Tar Creek visit: www.tarcreekmovie.com. For details about DuPage Superfund sites go to: www.epa.gov/region-5superfund/. Email: president@wheatonlwnv.org

Sunday, April 17 – Go Green! A Celebration in Conservation

12:00 pm-4:00 pm, Fullersburg Woods Nature Center, 3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook

River Prairie Group will be participating in the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's 2011 Go Green Earth Day event. Our exhibit will promote the Leave No Trace hiking program. The Go Green program features presentations by the EPA, outdoor retailers, and outdoor enthusiasts. It also includes fun activities for kids and families.

Sunday, April 17 – Green Readin': An Environmental Book Discussion

2:00 pm, Helen Plum Memorial Library, 110 West Maple Street, Lombard

The final book in the Green Readin' series is **Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet** by Bill McKibben. McKibben suggests we rename the planet, Eaarth, as current conditions no longer resemble the peaceful, stable climate mankind has enjoyed for the past 10,000 years. Join a discussion of how we can adapt to the new planet.

Sunday, April 17 – Introduction to Eating Local with Emily Prasad

3:00 pm, Helen Plum Memorial Library, 110 West Maple Street, Lombard

Interested in eating more locally but not sure where to start? Curious about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) but need more information about how it works? Do you shop at the Farmer's Market but need help finding local foods during the cold months? Looking for ways to eat locally on a budget? Wondering how to make local eating fit your busy schedule? This class will give you the resources to get started or continue your locavore journey! Preregister for this free program by calling: **630-627-0316**.

Monday, April 18 – How Does Your Community Participate in Green Programs?

7:00-9:00 pm, Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn

The Sierra Club River Prairie Group and many other civic, religious and environmental groups will share how they practice Earth Day every day! There will be well-known speakers in the field of environmental methods. Join us for this special celebration.

Saturday, April 30 – Annual Great Western Trails Clean Up

Our goal this year is to clean all the trails including both sections of the Great Western Trail (GWTs). *We are asking for your help.* We want you to help us and rollup your sleeves (but wear work gloves) and pick up litter along these trails. Bring friends and family (and garbage bags to fill). *Please contact us if you, your family and/or co-workers are interested in helping us clean the Great Western Trails.* <http://www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com/>

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Calendar of Events, continued

Sunday, May 1 – Green Earth Fair**

Green Earth Institute, McDonald Farm,
10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville

Come visit the Green Earth Institute's McDonald Farm for the Green Earth fair. The fair will feature speakers, children's activities, tours of the farm, vendors, and entertainment. For more information visit:

http://greenearthinstitute.org/index.php?main_page=page&id=5&chapter=5

Thursday, May 5 – RPG Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting will start at 6:30 pm with social time. Discussion of business will begin at 7:30 pm. The River Monitoring program will be recognized for 10 years of data collection by RPG volunteers. Everyone is welcome. Contact Lonnie Morris at herbdove@comcast.net for further details.

Saturday, May 14 – Native Plant Sale**

9:00 am-1:00 pm, 5608 Essex Road, Lisle
(2 blocks northeast of Maple and Rt. 53)

The local chapter of the Wild Ones will hold a sale of plants that are native to this part of Illinois. The sale is open to the public. Individual plants will be \$3 each.

**Saturday, May 14 –
International Migratory Bird Day Celebration****

8:00 am-1:00 pm, Willowbrook Wildlife Center,
2S525 Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn

Join Willowbrook Wildlife Center in celebrating the natural spectacle of spring bird migration. This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy migrating songbirds, especially in their beautiful breeding colors. Willowbrook has a number of activities planned to celebrate the arrival of these "feathered jewels." There will be scheduled bird walks for adults (8:00 am), new birders (9:00 am) and families (10:30 am), a bird banding station, and kids activities. Exhibitors will include the DuPage Birding Club, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Illinois Sierra Club, and DuPage County students.

Sunday, May 22 – Party on the Farm Fund Raiser

2:00-7:00 pm, 3S501 Landon Drive, Warrenville

Twin Star Ranch will be open to the public as a fundraiser for the Illinois Sierra Club. Music will be provided by *The Almost Brothers Band* and songwriter, acoustic guitarist Michael Schmidt. Soft drinks provided. Guests are invited to bring refreshments and a dish to share. \$15.00 for one adult, \$25.00 for two adults, children are free.

**Wednesday, June 1 –
Joint Executive Committee and Outings Meeting**

Join a combined dinner and business meeting of the two RPG governing committees.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to pass. Contact Lonnie Morris at herbdove@comcast.net for further details.

Saturday, June 4 – Salt Creek Launch Site Celebration

9:00 am, Salt Creek Park, Wood Dale

A celebration of the three new boat access sites on upper Salt Creek will be held on National Trails Day. The formal ribbon cutting will be at the Forest Preserve District's Salt Creek Park in Wood Dale at 10:00 am. From 9:00 am-10:30 am information tables will be set up by the Forest Preserve District, the IL Paddling Council, Prairie State Canoeists, and Openlands. Several different types of Canoes and Kayaks will be on display. Free Water Trail and Salt Creek Greenway Trail maps will be available. Prairie State Canoeists will have a paddle down from Salt Creek Park to Eldridge Park in Elmhurst. Paddlers with their own boats are invited to join in the paddle. A small insurance waiver fee is required for the paddle. For more information, email Tom Richardson at rtomrichardson@comcast.net.

**Thursday, June 23 –
RPG Executive Committee Meeting**

The meeting will start at 6:30 pm with social time. Discussion of business will begin at 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Contact Lonnie Morris at herbdove@comcast.net for further details.

***Indicates activities that are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision, or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because it may be of interest to the readers of this publication.*

River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings

Note: All local group outings are offered at cost. Longer and more expensive outings require deposits (ask leader about refund policy). Including updates on those below, new RPG listings, and offerings from other local groups, current listings are on the internet at: illinois.sierraclub.org/outings. Contact the Leader or Assistant indicated for more information and outing requirements.

For up-to-date information, visit: illinois.sierraclub.org/outings

Apr 3 (Sun) Cap Sauer Holdings Day Hike, Palos Hills, IL

Hike through Cap Sauer Holdings in Palos, a glacial area right here in northern Illinois. If our timing is right, we'll catch the spring flowers. There are meadows and woods throughout the Holdings where we'll be hiking. Cost: \$3. Limit: 15. Leader **Joe Pratola**. To sign up, call assistant leader **Marlena Bertolozzi, 708-267-4238**. email: marlenab@earthlink.net

Apr 9 (Sat) Wind Farm and Earth Home, Stewart and Rochelle area, IL

Come join us as we travel to the first wind farm in Illinois. We will meet the farmers and learn about a valuable renewable energy source of the future. There has to be a reason why we see more wind farms, right? Then it is off to see an earth home and to learn about the construction of it. (How much concrete/wires are in it and how much does it weigh?) And we will also learn how it conserves energy as a possible new construction alternative of the future. Limit 20. Cost: \$6. Please contact the leader **Jan Bradford 847-455-2947** after 7pm or email jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net assistant leader, **Karen Willden**.

Apr 9-10 Beginners Backpacking at Forest Glen Preserve, Westville, IL

Discover backpacking! Easy beginner trip to Forest Glen Preserve, where we will hike along a beautiful wooded trail adjacent to the Vermillion River. Forest Glen is a 1,800 acre nature area composed of wooded ravines, grassy meadows and tall-grass prairies. Learn about the Vermillion County Prairie Restoration Project. We will hike about 7½ miles on Saturday, camp at a remote campground, and hike 3½ miles back to the parking area on Sunday. Cost is \$35; \$5 discount for SC members. Leader is **Joe Pratola**. Assistant leader is **Marlena Bertolozzi**. To participate, call Marlena at **708-267-4238** or email: marlenab@earthlink.net

Apr 15-17 Two-Day Beginners Backpack at Yellow River State Forest, Waukon, IA

Get out of your car and campgrounds, put on a backpack, and hike the trails on an overnight packing trip. Learn about the driftless area of NE Iowa. We will cover 10-12 miles of this wooded, moderately hilly country, encountering streams and spectacular overlooks. Saturday night will be primitive camping on a small forest clearing. Departing the state forest early Sunday afternoon, we drive to nearby Effigy Mounds National Monument and conclude with a short hike on wooded bluffs overlooking the Upper Mississippi National Waterway. Cost is \$45; \$5 discount for SC members. Contact the leader **Chris Lazzari 630-863-3347**. email: clazstar@hotmail.com Assistant Leader pending.

Apr 16 (Sat) Day Hike at Starved Rock State Park, Utica, IL

NOTE THE NEW DATE FOR THIS HIKE AS SHOWN ABOVE. View the earliest varieties of wildflowers in this breaking-of-spring hike through the park's scenic sandstone canyons and forests, with grand views of the Illinois River valley. Waterfalls and streams are usually most active this time of year. Hiking about eight miles over moderately hilly terrain, we will do some cleanup along the trails. Wildflowers will be identified and discussed. Cost: \$3. Limit 25 per hiking group. Leader is **Fred Weber**. Assistant leaders are **Bernie Kolasa** and **Steve Sivocchi**. Call Fred at **630-469-6826** or email: fredaweber@hotmail.com.

Apr 16 (Sat) Spring Wildflower Hike: Black Partridge Preserve & Messenger Woods, Southern Cook/Northern Will Counties, IL

Join us for a spring wildflower hike in two areas. Black Partridge Preserve, the second dedicated nature preserve in Illinois, is an 80-acre site located in southern Cook County. The trail follows a stream and goes up and down ravines. Messenger Woods, one of Will County's oldest and most unusual sites, covers 946 acres and is known for its abundance of spring wildflowers that carpet the forest floor. Red and white trillium, hepatica, blue-eyed Mary and Virginia Bluebells are the stars of the show. Cost: \$3. Limit 15. Leader is **Mark Ginger**. Assistant Leader is **Paul Silverman**. To sign up, contact Mark at **847-699-0329**. or email: bubbleman@earthlink.net

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River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings, continued

**Apr 22-25 Shawnee National Forest
Spring Flower Hikes, Harrisburg, IL**

Take day hikes and learn spring flowers in the spectacular wilderness areas in Shawnee National Forest southeast of Harrisburg, IL: Garden of the Gods, Burden Falls, Bell Smith Springs and Heron Pond along the Cache River. Includes double occupancy at a local motel. Cost is \$135 which includes lodging and three breakfasts. Not included: lunches, dinners, transportation. Limit 10. Two photo links:

- 1) www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/recreation/photo/east/
- 2) <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r5/cachervr.htm>

Leader: **Joe Pokorny**. Assistant leader: **Paul Silverman**
Call: **847-392-3433** or email: marshallgp@aol.com.
Co-leader needed.

**Apr 23 (Sat) Day Hike at Franklin Creek
State Natural Area, Franklin Grove, IL**

Join us for an April hike at this beautiful 664-acre park. We will hike about seven miles. There are several stream crossings that can be up to two feet deep. Beautiful Franklin Creek flows throughout the 882-acre park. Low lying areas along the creek bed support a bottomland forest dominated by silver maple and hackberry. Ravines support mesic (intermediate between wet and dry) upland forest characterized by sugar maple and basswood. We will learn about many spring wildflowers including: Virginia Bluebells, Wild Columbine, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Ginger, Mayapple, and Prairie Trillium. Cost: \$3. Limit 16. Leader is **Paul Saindon**. Assistant Leader is **Joanne Reisner**. To sign up, email Paul at paul@pauls.us

**Apr 29-May 2 Missouri Ozarks (Taum Sauk Section)
Hawn State Park – Missouri Botanic Gardens,
Farmington Area and Saint Louis, MO**

Enjoy two days of hiking amid Spring flowers, waterfalls and streams on the hills of the Missouri Ozark Mountains. On Monday, visit the Missouri Botanic Gardens in St. Louis. Includes double occupancy at a local Farmington motel. Cost is \$175 in advance, which includes three nights lodging (double occupancy), three breakfasts, and Sierra Club and administrative fees. Not included: transportation, lunches on the trail and Dinners at local restaurants. Limit 12. Three photo links:

- 1) www.MOstateparks.com/hawn.htm
- 2) www.MOstateparks.com/taumsauk.htm
- 3) www.mobot.org/about/default.htm.

For more info visit: www.mostateparks.hawn.htm.
LEADER NEEDED. Contact assistant leader: **Paul Silverman**
847-392-3433; email: marshallgp@aol.com

**Apr 30 (Sat) Spring Wildflower Hike:
Heller Nature Center & Ryerson Conservation Area,
North Suburbs, IL**

Join us for a wildflower hike at two areas in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Heller Nature Center in Highland Park is a 97-acre preserve managed by the Highland Park Park District. Three miles of trail wind through an authentic natural landscape. Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods is a 500 plus acre preserve managed by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Five miles of trail wind through this wooded flatlands river plain offering the opportunity to view many rare and threatened flora and fauna, including a spectacular spring wildflower display. Cost: \$3. Limit 20. Leader is **Mark Ginger**. Assistant Leader is **Steve Savoochi**. To sign up, contact the leader Mark Ginger after March 1st at **847-699-0329**; email: bubbleman@earthlink.net

**Apr 30-May 1 Mississippi Palisades
Base Camp Hike/Bike, Savannah, IL**

Spend one day hiking through the Mississippi Palisades, studying and identifying the spring wildflowers which cover the slopes. Hike along ancient Indian trails overlooking the Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. Spend one day either hiking or biking a section of the Illinois Great River Trail. Camp or stay at a local inn. Limit 20. Cost is \$40 (\$5 discount for Sierra Club members). \$25 deposit is due April 1. Leaders are **Donna** and **Steve Turner**. Assistant leader is **Marlena Bertolozzi**. Contact Marlena at **708-267-4238** or marlenab@earthlink.net to sign up for this popular trip.

**May 7 (Sat) Spring Wildflower Hike:
Love Creek County Park and
Fernwood Nature Preserve, Berrien Springs, MI**

Join us for a spring wildflower hike at two areas in southwest Michigan. Love Creek County Park is a 150-acre natural area that has six miles of hiking trails that wind through a mature Beech-Maple forest. Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve has a phenomenal collection of botanicals as well as woodlands that are carpeted with trilliums, anemones, violets, Solomon's seal and more. These two places provide for an ideal environment for viewing and learning about some spectacular spring wildflowers. Cost: \$3. Limit 20. Leader is **Mark Ginger**. Assistant Leader is **Paul Silverman**. To sign up, call Mark at **847-699-0329** beginning April 1st; email: bubbleman@earthlink.net

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River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings, continued

May 8 (Sun) Annual Mothers Day Walk at Volo Bog, Ingleside, IL

Our annual Mothers Day hike will be held at Volo Bog State Natural Area. This unique area was formed thousands of years ago by the Wisconsin Glacier. The morning will start with 3 miles of hiking around the bog, followed by an interpretive walk into the center of the bog. After lunch, we will continue with another short hike on nearby trails. We will also learn about local spring flowers and birds. Families welcome. Cost: \$3. Limit 20. Leaders: **Mark Ginger** and **Berni Kolasa**, Assistant Leader: **Steve Savocchi**. Call Berni starting April 1 at **847-885-2287**; email: **bcanoodle@sbcglobal.net**

May 14 (Sat) Glacial Park Geological Day Hike, Ringwood, IL

A leisurely spring interpretive hike with a retired geologist, in Glacial Park, the crown jewel of the McHenry County Conservation District. We will hike approximately six miles, observe geological features, and learn about their origins. Leader is **Mike Davis**. Assistant leader is **Berni Kolasa**. Cost: \$3. Limit 20. Call Berni at **847-885-2287**; email: **bcanoodle@sbcglobal.net**

May 26-29 3-Day Backpack in Hoosier National Forest, Story, IN

A moderately-paced spring adventure of backpacking, camping, and day-hiking in the forested hills of south-central Indiana. Learn how the Forest Service is gradually increasing the acreage in this National Forest. Covering about seven miles on each of three days (Fri-Sun), we'll backpack into the forest on Friday, camping by a stream. We will spend the second day hiking and exploring this vast wilderness area, and backpack out on the third day. Suitable for beginners in good physical condition, with solid hiking experience, and for experienced backpackers as well. Trip fee of \$50 is due April 10th. Limit 14. Leaders are **Fred Weber** and **Paul Saindon**. *Assistant leader needed*. Call Fred at **630-469-6826**; email: **fredaweber@hotmail.com**

Jun 4 (Sat) Cycling the Long Prairie Trail & Stone Bridge Trail, Boone County, IL

Join us for late-spring cycling along two relatively unknown trails in Boone County. This 40-mile ride will be on the paved Long Prairie Trail (14.2 mi) and the crushed limestone of the Stone Bridge Trail (5.8 mi). We will stop for lunch at the Roland Olson Forest Preserve and observe the conservation work performed at this preserve. Cost: \$3. Limit 15. Co-Leaders are **Mark Ginger** and **Mike Davis**. Assistant leader is **Pete Potamianos**. Sign up after April 15th by contacting Mark @ **847-699-0329**; email: **bubbleman@earthlink.net**

Jun 5 (Sun) Cowles Bog – Indiana Dunes, Chesterton, IL

Come join us for a leisurely hike thru the woods to the beach and thru the ferns. We will hike thru wetlands, marshes, and the beach area picking up garbage and enjoying an area that is close to home for most of us. After our hike, there will be an optional get-together at one of the best rib places around. Cost: \$3. Limit 20. Please contact the leader, **Jan Bradford** at **847-455-2947** after 6pm or by e-mail: **jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net**. *Assistant leader to be determined*

Jun 11 (Sat) Beginner Kayak Clinic at Busse Woods, Elk Grove Village, IL

Have you ever wanted to learn how to kayak? Want to prepare for summer-time fun? Then join us for instruction and paddling practice on Busse Lake! Time: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Sierra Club leaders are supplying the kayaks. Reserve a time slot starting April 1st. Contact **Paul Saindon** by e-mail at **paul@pauls.us**. Limit 20. Leader is **Paul Saindon**, assistant leader is **Karen Willden**.

Jun 18-19 Biking the driftless region of Wisconsin, southwest Wisconsin, WI

We will be camping on a secluded farm in SW Wisconsin, riding the low traffic paved roads on Saturday, and checking out the Pine River trail Sunday. We will ride from 20-40 miles Saturday on hilly paved roads, and 15 miles on flat limestone Sunday. We'll have a campfire at the farmhouse Friday night, ride Saturday and Sunday. We will also visit the Kickapoo Reserve visitor center to learn about the history and geology of the area. Cost is \$20, covering breakfast Sat. and Sun., and dinner Sunday. Leader: **Steve Carrow**. Assistant leader **Mike Davis**. Call **630-293-4988** or e-mail **stephencarrow@sbcglobal.net** for more information.

Jun 25 (Sat) A day in the sun – Solar/geothermal house tour & Nachusa Grasslands, Oregon, IL

Our day begins with a tour of a 1-Watt solar home that is geothermal assisted. Here we will learn how geothermal cools the home and how the solar construction shades the home from the summer heat. Then it is on to the Nachusa Grassland to see the prairie in full bloom. Our naturalist will take us on a tour and we will hike and learn the different names of the plants. Depending on the group, an optional tour of an Organic Rock Farm may also be offered. Limit 20 Cost \$5 Leader **Jan Bradford**. Please call **847-455-2947** after 7pm or e-mail **jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net**. **Mike Way** is assistant leader.

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River Prairie Group (RPG) Outings, continued

Jun 26 (Sun) Canoe the beautiful Rock River, Oregon, IL

Come join us for a fun day on the Rock River. We will identify birds, stop at Castle Rock State Park for lunch and an overview of Rock River for picture taking. Later we will do a group float and then when we get back, we will go to Jay's drive in – a 50/60 car hop for root beer floats or a bite to eat. Limit 20 Cost \$31 Leader **Jan Bradford** Please call **847-455-2947** after 7pm or e-mail **jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net**. Co-leader is **Mike Way**.

Aug 27-Sep 4 Teton National Park, Jackson Hole – Signal Mountain – Driggs, (ID), WY

Spend nine days (eight nights) in the spectacular Tetons; four nights in Signal Mountain Lodge Cabins, four nights in Driggs, ID. Enjoy hikes along Jackson Lake, Jenny Lake, Phelps Lake, and three awesome canyons where we will learn about abundant wild life. The scenery is beyond description. Cost: \$530, payable in advance, includes lodging, Sierra Club donation and Jenny Lake boat shuttle. Not included: meals, transportation and park admission. Limit 12. Leader: **Joe Pokorny** Assistant Leader: **Paul Silverman 847-392-3433**; email: **marshallgp@aol.com**

Sep 4-10 Glacier National Park Day Hikes, East Glacier Park, MT

Spend seven days (six nights) in beautiful Glacier National Park. Learn about the effect of global warming on glaciers. Cost \$360, payable in advance, include six nights lodging and Two Medicine Lake boat rides. Not included: meals, tips, park entry fee, and transportation. Amtrak goes to East Glacier, MT. Limit 12. Photos at: www.nps.gov/glac/photos.htm Leader: **Joe Pokorny**. Assistant leader: **Paul Silverman 847-392-3433**; email: **marshallgp@aol.com**

Sep 10 (Sat) Biking and Prairie seed collecting, West Chicago/Geneva, IL

In the morning we will collect prairie plant seeds at the West Chicago Prairie, while learning from the steward about the history of this prairie, as well as the plants we'll be seeing. We will then bike on the Geneva Spur of the Prairie Path to Geneva, for lunch at one of the many restaurants there. After lunch we'll bike a bit of the Fox River Trail, and then back to the prairie. See this link for info on the West Chicago Prairie: <http://home.comcast.net/~wcpsg/> Cost: \$3. Contact Leader **Steve Carrow 630-293-4988**; e-mail: **stephencarrow@sbcglobal.net**

Sep 23-26 Porcupine Mountain Wilderness – Fall Color Hikes, Ironwood, MI

Enjoy three day hikes at the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with hiking and views unlike any other in the Midwest. Towering virgin timber (pines, cedar, hemlock, oak, maple), secluded lakes, waterfalls and miles of wild rivers and streams. make a visit to the "Porkies" a trip to remember. Cost: \$150 includes: three nights lodging, three breakfasts and Sierra Club fee. \$5 member discount. Full payment required in advance. Limit 12. Leader: **Joe Pokorny**. Assistant leader: **Paul Silverman 847-392-3433**; email: **marshallgp@aol.com**

Oct 14-17 Shawnee National Forest Fall Color Hikes, Harrisburg, IL

Experience day hikes and fall colors in the spectacular wilderness areas of Shawnee National Forest, southeast of Harrisburg, IL: Garden of the Gods, Lusk Creek, Indian Kitchen and Heron Pond on the Cache River. For photos of the area:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/recreation/photo/east/>
and
<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r5/cachervr.htm>

The mix of trees can provide an unequalled autumn spectrum of color. Maple, gum and dogwood produce brilliant reds, beech dress in yellow, oaks are scarlet, and pines sprinkle the palette with green. Learn "Why Leaves Turn Color." We'll be staying at a local motel. Cost is \$135 and includes lodging and three breakfasts. Limit 10. Leader: **Joe Pokorny**. Assistant leaders: **Paul Silverman 847-392-3433**; email: **marshallgp@aol.com**

*For up-to-date information visit:
illinois.sierraclub.org/outings*

Join the Bluestem Network, *The Official Lobbying Network of the River Prairie Group!*

You'll receive a call whenever the Sierra Club Phone Tree Network is activated with an environmental action alert. Bluestem is generally activated on a monthly basis. Upon receiving the phone call notification, members can access the environmental action alert by two ways: receiving it at an email address or by checking the RPG Web page. The action alert instructs members how to place a call to elected representatives and the position that the Sierra Club has taken. A phone call to elected officials has proven to be the most effective way to have an impact on public policy. *To join, clip and mail the application to Linda Sullivan, 302 W. Windsor Ave., Lombard, IL 60148.*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

IL County _____

Sierra Club Member? Yes No

Home phone number _____
(required to join)

Answering machine? Yes No

Email address _____
if you wish to receive action alerts via email