


Joining Sierra Club members in Lake and Northeastern Cook Counties in Illinois

# WOODS & WETLANDS News



## The Woods and Wetlands Considers Local Endorsements

The Woods and Wetlands group currently considers election endorsements for candidates at the county and state levels, but not for candidates in municipal elections. Since most development occurs within municipal boundaries, influencing elections at the local level could have an enormous effect on growth and environmental protection in our area.

Our group Executive Committee (ExCom) recently considered making endorsements in selected municipal elections. Since our territory covers a large area with many municipalities, local endorsements can only be made with help from members who reside in those municipalities.

Therefore, the following requirements must be met before Woods & Wetlands will consider endorsing a candidate in any community:

- 1 At least two (but preferably more) Sierra Club members from the municipality must volunteer to serve on the group's Political Committee. These members will identify local issues and help write



the questionnaire that will be sent to all candidates of that municipality. They should also be prepared to participate in other group endorsement decisions.

- 2 Political Committee Members must help campaign for the endorsed candidate(s). Tasks usually include: writing articles for the W&W News, press releases, press conferences, stuffing envelopes, canvassing neighborhoods, or contacting voters.

The Political Committee evaluates candidates that return questionnaires, and decides whether to recommend any to our ExCom for endorsement.

The Sierra Club takes endorsements quite seriously, and applies a high standard. To protect the club's good name, every effort is made to ensure that the candidates will actively and successfully support environmental protection. The club does not endorse candidates who are merely the lesser of two evils, and reserves the right not to make any endorsement in a particular race.

If you would like to help the Woods and Wetlands group to consider endorsing candidates for your town or village, please contact Mary Van Vactor at 847-949-1355 or [vangan-son@juno.com](mailto:vangan-son@juno.com), or Gerry Rodell at 847-367-5676.

## Hike the Rt. 53 Corridor

The Hawthorn Woods Heron Rookery is just one of the precious wildlife habitats threatened by the Rt. 53 extension. We calculate that corridor wetlands alone comprise 178 acres. We would like to visit other threatened areas, and need to discover and explore them. If you've seen those little green "FAP 342" markers along the roads near where you live, we need your help.

Survey the lands within a quarter mile of those signs. Find out who owns them, and help us draw attention there with an outing later this year. For a corridor map, see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/il/chapters/w&w/route53.html#FAP342>. Contact Evan, our outings Chair, with information (See list on back page).

## Save Our Special Places

The Sierra Club began as a few people who found the magnificent wilderness areas they loved threatened by deforestation. They decided to show others its beauty, and stopped the wanton destruction. W&W continues that proud tradition with hikes to special places. Whether a Forest Preserve property escaping from the invasion of exotic species, a marsh saved by a local community, or a heron rookery imperiled by a senseless tollway, each offers a chance to appreciate firsthand what can be lost—and what can be saved, for our families, and for our future. The Outings Committee is jointly staffed by leaders from W&W and the NW Suburban Group. Members of both groups are invited to join the committee and learn to lead outings.

See inside for a list of outings.

# Imagine... The Sun Lake Preserve

Imagine a tallgrass prairie full of big bluestem, Indian grass, pink phlox and white prairie clover. Imagine a small pristine lake surrounded by a high quality marsh with pickerelweed, royal fern and marsh fern. Imagine a cool savanna with great bur oaks punctuating porcupine grass and starry campion.

## Partnering with the Forest Preserve

The Woods and Wetlands group recently established a partnership with the Lake County Forest Preserve District to restore the Sun Lake preserve to this presettlement splendor.

This is an opportunity for members to experience a firsthand relationship with a remnant of genuine native wilderness, while making a real difference restoring critical wildlife habitat. As once said, "it's a big job, so we'd better get started."

## A 24 acre lake surrounded by a 165 acre buffer: Lake County's most pristine body of water

Sun Lake itself accounts for only 24 acres of the preserve. It's surrounded and protected by 70 acres of calcareous floating mat and marsh, 70 acres of dry-mesic upland forest, and 25 acres of successional field. The lake is approximately 6 feet deep. In spite of its modest proportions, it's the gem of the site. It provides habitat for the state endangered aquatic pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*), and was called Lake County's most pristine body of water in the Sequoia Creek Watershed Water Quality Study.

The floating mat consists primarily of overgrown cattail, purple loosestrife and willow, but it also supports a population of the state threatened bod bedstraw (*Galium labradoricum*).

## Water comes from several different sources

Sun Lake receives water from several sources. Groundwater discharge, direct precipitation, runoff from the adjacent uplands, and outflow from Deep Lake all contribute to its waters. Sequoia Creek, which flows out of Sun

Lake, is a highly channelized stream that flows north through a dormant wetland area to Antioch. It empties into Lake Marie and eventually into the Fox River.

The upland dry-mesic forest has been severely degraded by grazing, farming and logging. The understory is dominated by Eurasian shrubs, including honeysuckles and buckthorn, over a groundlayer of alien and disturbance-adapted native species.

The prime threats to the long-term integrity of Sun Lake are

- 1) the potential use of the dam between Deep Lake and Sun Lake to regulate levels within Deep Lake, which would be detrimental to the hydrologic regime within Sun Lake, and
- 2) the impact of recent and planned residential developments adjacent to the forest preserve, particularly water quality degradation resulting from lawn chemicals, septic systems and recreational use of the natural area.

## Volunteer efforts are paying off

Volunteer restoration activities so far have focused on eliminating buckthorn, honeysuckle and wild grape from areas within 50 feet of Sun Lake. It's been a lot of work, and although much more needs to be done, the effort is paying off.

Now we're considering ways to invite participation in this worthy project by many more of our members, both young and wise, big and small.

## Sun Lake Owl Prowl

Explore W&W's adopted Forest Preserve looking for owls, July 7 p.m. 847-991-8771 (see [www.sierraclub.org/outings.html](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings.html))

We're looking for volunteers to join the Sun Lake Restoration Committee, and plan involvement of members to implement restoration projects. This will include:

- ✦ a continuing discovery of the site's natural history,
- ✦ identification and reintroduction of the processes which created and sustained the natural communities of these areas in presettlement times (fire, hydrology, patterns and methods of species dispersal).
- ✦ continuing control of problem species.
- ✦ construction of non intrusive access to the site for human visitors.
- ✦ fun ways for our members to support the projects.

The next meeting of the new Sun Lake Restoration Committee will be on March 24th in Grayslake.

Contact our conservation chairs: John Massman at [beritz@earthlink.net](mailto:beritz@earthlink.net) or Mike Quinn at [drngo11@aol.com](mailto:drngo11@aol.com) to join the committee. Or leave a message in box 4 on the Hotline: 847-680-6437.

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# Outings

## Canoe Safety

**Saturday, June 2, 1:30 - 4:30 pm Location TBA.**

Beginning canoeists will learn preparation, boarding, paddling, tipping, and recovery. Come dressed to get wet. Wear swim clothes and shoes that can be worn in the water; bring a towel and dry clothes. Cost: \$20 includes book. Limit 10. Reservations cut-off: June 11. Contact Evan Craig at 847-680-6437 x4, or x6,5, or by email to auk@interaccess.com.

## Sun Lake Stewardship Lake Villa

**Saturday, April 14, 9:00 - noon**

**Saturday, May 12, 9:00 - noon**

**Saturday, June 9, 9:00 - noon**

Enjoy this pristine Forest Preserve while liberating it from the invasion of exotic species. Fee goes to Sun Lake Restoration Fund. Bring water and eye protection. Dress ruggedly. Additional loppers, saws, and other pruning tools useful. Cost: \$5. Contact John Massman at 847-838-9440 or by email to beritz@earthlink.com.

*Directions: N on Deep Lake Rd from Rt. 132, west on Painted Lakes/Gelden Rd. for 200 ft, left on Spring Farm Rd., right on Longwood Dr. Park in cul de sac.*

## Hawthorn Woods Heron Rookery

**Sunday, June 16, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

See young herons in the nest in this ADID wetland marked for destruction by IDOT and ISTHA. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, bug spray, long pants. Cost: \$5. Limit 20. Reservations cut-off: June 11. Contact Evan Craig at 847-680-6437 x4, or x6,5, or by email to auk@interaccess.com. *Directions: S. on Gilmer from Indian Creek Rd 1 mi.*

## Wisconsin River Wildlife Area Canoeing Weekend Saturday-Sunday, June 22-24

We'll canoe down the lower Wisconsin River between Sauk City and Spring Green, camping Friday night at Tower Woods State Park, and Saturday night on a sandbar island. Bright spring days will afford deeper water and easier paddling through this wide, sandy-bottomed Wildlife Area. Cost includes canoes, shuttling, two breakfasts, and dinner. (Bring 2 cold lunches.) Less experienced canoeists will be paired with more experienced paddlers the first day. Participants must be approved by leader in advance. Meeting point Tower Woods Campground, near Spring Green. Please call if you have a van and can drive. Bring a tent, pack, layered clothes, camp utensils, stove, dry bag.

Cost: \$40. Limit 16. Reservations cut-off: June 3 to reserve canoes. To sign up, fill out an Information and Sign Up Form (on web site at <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w/O200106.html>), print and sign the waiver, and send it in with the fee. Contact Evan Craig at 847-680-6437 x4, or x6,5, or by email to auk@interaccess.com.

## Warbler Dawn Patrol at Ryerson Woods, Riverwoods

**Wednesday, May 23, (tentative) 6:00 - 7:45 am**

Every year thousands of these brightly colored birds travel up the Mississippi flyway on their way from Central America to Canada. They rely on intact woodland areas such as Ryerson Woods to rest and eat during the day. Bring water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, (telephoto camera).

*Directions: Riverwoods Rd. N of Deerfield Rd. Specific directions given to those who sign up, and published here later.*

Cost: \$3. Limit 10. Reservations cut-off: June 11. Contact Evan Craig at 847-680-6437 x4, or x6,5, or by email to auk@interaccess.com.

**See the website for more outings and updates.**

**Give this to a Friend!!**

## Join Sierra Club today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed       Mastercard       Visa

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories:**      Individual      Joint

	Individual	Joint
Introductory	\$25	--
Regular	\$40	\$50
Supporting	\$75	\$100
Contributing	\$150	\$175
Life	\$1000	\$1250
Senior	\$24	\$32
Student	\$24	\$32
Limited Income	\$24	\$32

Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

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*For our families, for our future.*

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



**Sierra Club**  
**Woods & Wetlands Group**  
**P. O. Box 5012**  
**Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

## Group Meetings

### Wind Power for Our Region

**Tuesday, March 13th 7:15 - 9:30 pm Prairie Crossing**

Learn about efforts to deploy wind power in Lake County, and the attractive rebate program for installing and running a wind turbine. NEG Micon USA manufacturers windmills in Illinois. Their representative, Jesper Michaelsen will reveal how modern windmills work, and what's involved in deploying and operating them.

### Environmental Agenda for the Lake County Board

**Tuesday, April 10th, 7:15 - 9:30 pm Vernon Hills**

The Lake County Board is now chaired by Suzie Schmidt, a long term ally, and W&W endorsed candidate. She will be our guest for this "town hall" meeting, focusing on a number of important issues, and then answering questions.

### Aggregation: Preparing for Electricity Deregulation

**Tuesday May 8th, 7:15 - 9:30 pm Vernon Hills**

You will be free to choose the source of your electricity in May of 2002. David Rinebolt, Executive Director of the Midwest Energy Research Center, will explain how banding together into purchasing groups can support clean energy sources.

### Where Group Meetings are held

Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Dr.; (847)367-3700. From Libertyville, go south on Butterfield to end; left on Rt. 45; right on Evergreen (1st light); left into golf course parking lot. Cross street to Village Hall. See website for map to meeting.

Please note: There are no public meetings planned for June, July, or August.

### Lunch with the Group Chairs

**September 19, October 17, November 21, 11:45 am**

Members are invited to join Evan Craig (W&W) and Bob Hollar (LCCA) for Lunch with the Group Chairs. It's on third Tuesday of each month at the Tasty Thai in the Dominick's plaza at Lakeview and Townline (Rt. 60) in Vernon Hills. Buffet. 11:45-1:00 pm. RSVP.

### Monthly planning meetings

All members are invited to the Group's Planning Meetings, now held at 6:30 p.m. on first Tuesday of each month at the Caribou Coffee House, 725 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, 573-8271; Near METRA station on Milwaukee Ave. (Not the Vernon Hills Village Hall), in Libertyville.

**For meetings and outing updates see [www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w)**

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## Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group

[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w)

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