

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

April 2018 Dues are due! Thanks to all who paid.



Paddling from Tutty's crossing to the VFW.

Atten's Landing, the VFW and Wes Block will be the primary focus of 2018 activities. Also of concern is the erosion at Bobbers in Winslow.

FPRF has an answer to March Madness! It's Spring fundraising. We were at Applebees in March, at Culver's in April 10th, Spring Thaw on May 19, 5-9, at Rt 26 Grill & Bar. Fund raising takes a pause for the July 29 Pecatonica River clean up. The last fund raiser is our Annual Fish Fry, on September 14th.

We also are supported by the VFW and Dairy Queen. Our members, neighboring communities, and county government, support the concept of promoting recreation as a benefit to residents and as an attraction for tourism. We thank you all. Working on the necessary resources for a water trail is great fun. Sometimes very challenging, but worth it. WE plan to be very active at Atten's Landing, the VFW and Wes Block, the summer.

This will be the 13th year for the Pecatonica River Clean up. Starting at 9 a.m. on Sunday July 29 and finishing with a picnic at noon, participants are asked to please bring a dish to pass. Trash will be removed from as much of the river as possible. The originator and sponsor of this community service is United Youth Foundation, operating out of Rock Hollow. A new management team, Kevin O'Brian and Jeremy Lenz will soon be leading Rock Hollow. Their plan is to expand dinner menu, add a lunch schedule, update the decor, and continue the annual clean.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Apr. 19	Monthly Meeting Rafters 6:30 p.m.
May 17	Next meeting Rafters
Apr. 19-22	Association of Lincoln Presenters Annual Conference Conference Registration \$50 815-233-1357
May 16	Pretzel City Wine Fest Freeport IL 815-979-9646
Dec. 20 Jan. 29 Feb. 17 Mar. 17 Apr. 21	Society of St. Vincent de Paul Free Community Lunch 11:30am -1pm Berg Hall Aquin Elementary School 202 W. Pleasant Freeport 815-232-4687
Apr. 28	United Way Celebrity Dinner And Silent Auction 2900 W. Pearl City Rd. 815-232-5184 ext 3
Sept. 22	Tour de Freeport Tutty's Crossing 9 a.m. - noon

Other Events & Activities

Freeport/Stephenson County
Convention & Visitors Bureau
4596 U.S. 20 East
Freeport, IL 61032
1-815-233-1357 / 1-800-369-2955
www.celebratefreeport.com

FPRF Events

April 10 4-9 Culvers May 19 Spring Thaw 5-9 Rt 26 Grill & Bar
July 29 Rock Hollow Pecatonica River Clean up 9 a.m. - noon dish to pass
Sept. 14 Annual Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Rock Hollow Hunt Club
Flotillas: June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16.

Freeport Park District
1122 S. Burchard Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032
1-815-235-6114

Lena Community Park District
609 N. Schuler St.
Lena, IL 61048
1-815-369-5351

www.freeportparkdistrict.org

www.lenaparks.org



Watch Tom Lindblade's
"Illinois' Friendliest Paddle"
<http://bit.ly/paddlethepec>



Pecatonica River Scenes in
Postcards \$12 +\$3 S&H
www.pecriver.org/projects

"Pecatonica River Scenes in Postcard - Book 2" \$12 + \$3 S&H

*Available at: Convention & Visitors Center, 9 East, Freeport Art Museum, and mail.
A limited number of "Pecatonica River Scenes in Postcard" are available at \$12 + \$3 S&H.*

Ridott Township

Although the Pecatonica River greatly contributed to area development, it was the railroads that really made the area grow. In 1852, the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad, which would become a part of the Chicago and Northwestern system, came through. Speculators and purchasers came to Ridott township in large numbers. But the greatest impetus for development and improvement came in the shape of the Rockford and Freeport electric line of the Rockford and Interurban system, which touched the villages of Ridott and Nevada, running parallel with the Chicago and Northwestern tracks. This was especially a boon to the villagers of Ridott for it has enabled them to come to Freeport and do their shopping at any and every time of the day, affording quick, cheap, and comfortable transportation. In addition to the Interurban, three steam railroads enter Ridott Township, making a total of four within the whole area. The Chicago and North western cuts across the northern end of the township, running through Ridott village, and also Nevada, but not maintaining a station at the last named place. The Illinois Central runs through the central portion from northwest to southeast and through the stations at Everts and Legal. Lastly, the Chicago and Great Western cuts across the southwestern corner of Ridott Township, with its station at the village of German Valley. From German Valley it runs directly southeast to Ogle County, and from that point it runs to Chicago in an almost direct line. The railroads brought prosperity to some and an end to others.

The early attractions of the area, and the changes which took place from frontier to stable communities, caused Ridott township to harbor five ghost towns: Nevada, Everts, also known as Stephens Post Office, Legal, Ridott Center, and Farwell, although the last named probably not be called a ghost since its only identity was on a piece of legal paper owned by the hopeful Farwell family. Ridott Center was called Ridott before the village of Ridott was founded. It was also called Center or Central. There was a store, school and post office. It is the approximate location of Ridott Corners tavern, the homes on the south side of Rt 20, and the location of Hunt Tavern.

Individuals and organizations interested in improving river stewardship, paddling, organizing river events, the history of the river and communities along the river, check our website and contact us.

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation
50 W. Douglas St. Suite 1002
Freeport, IL 61032
1-815-369-8000
www.pecriver.org
www.paddlethepec.com
www.illinoispadding.org
email: pec@pecriver.org

Joe Ginger – President
Dick Haight – Vice President
Lee Butler -- Secretary /Treasurer
Roger Schamberger – Governmental Liaison
Mickie Dittmar & John Fritz – Fund Raising Chair
Joe Green – Site Development Manager
Mickie Dittmar -Membership
Jim Leamy- Safety Chair

*We will not share or sell your email address.

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Dues are due in February. If you joined in July or later, you are good for 2018.
All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to:
Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

