

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

May 2018



The Pretzel City Paddle, for canoe and kayak racers, was held again this year and was another huge success. This photo, by Jon Fritz, shows three paddlers near the Hancock Avenue Bridge. About twenty paddlers were able to attend this year. Once again the Freeport VFW was a significant factor in making the event a success. We really appreciate all they do, and we plan to help them develop their launch site.



Repairs to the fishing piers at McConnell's Bobtown Landing are completed. The launches at Bobtown, McNeil's Damascus Landing, Tutty's Crossing, and the stairs at Wes Block are ready for use. A big "thank you!" to City of Freeport and the Lena Community Park District. FPRF members placed the steps at Wes Block.

Congratulations go out to Lee Butler and Betty Daws, on their engagement. They met while kayaking. The proposal happened while paddling near Twin Caves in Krape Park.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

May 17	Monthly Meeting Rafters 6:30 p.m.
June 21	Next meeting Rafters
May 27-28	Stephenson County Antique Engine Club 2954 S. Walnut Rd. Freeport, IL 11 am-4 pm
May 12 - Oct. 13	Freeport Farmers Market 721 W South St. CVS Parking May 12-Oct. 13 7 am-11 am
May 12 - Oct. 27	Stephenson County Farmers Market 1805 S. West Ave. 8 am - 12:30 pm
May 2 - Oct. 10	Lena Farmers Market Downtown Parking Lot 4 pm - 8 pm
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 Postcard - Book 2

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.*

Winslow and Ransomburg

Late in the fall of '33 or spring of '34 Lyman Brewster with Joe Abeno established a ferry at the site of Winslow, and Simeon Davis made a claim in Oneco Township the latter year. The same season George Payne settled near Brewster's Ferry and George Lott built the first shanty in what is now Winslow. Harry and Jerry Waters and A. C. Ransom followed soon after. Ransom anticipated many years the modern "boomer" of town sites. He has the distinction of having lain out, a mile and a half below Brewster's Ferry, and the first town in the county and he did it in the most approved latter day style. There was nothing small about it. In highly colored maps there were shown parks and drives, fountains, statuary, public buildings, hotels, stores, dwellings, shops and wharves and last but not least a steamer plying the "crystal" waters of the turbid Pecatonica bearing its precious burden of settlers to the thriving, bustling city that existed in the proud founder's hopeful brain. It is said some guileful representative actually did dispose of a lot to some confiding citizen of St. Louis at a price in advance of the market rate of lots in that village on the west banks of the great stream. Ransom did establish a store there and for a time believed himself the founder of the great metropolis of the west, but Fate ordained otherwise and in a few years the site was abandoned to the grasses and flowers of the prairie and Ransomburg became, like many others, only an unsubstantial memory of a dream.

James Eells, set out on a prospecting tour, which took in Stephenson County. He was pleased with the outlook here, and returning to his family had everything prepared for another journey, and arrived here in the month of April 1835. Entering a claim in what is now Winslow Twp. Mr. Eells put up a double hewed log cabin, covered with shakers held in place by weight poles, and supplied with a puncheon floor split from basswood logs. After establishing his family comfortably he proceeded to cultivate the land, entering it from the Government as soon as it came into market, and occupying it until 1836. He then removed across the river to a little town just started, which was named Ransomburg, and which was located on section 36 of what is now Winslow Township. There he put up another log house and converted it into a hotel, which was the first institution of the kind in that section, and where he acted as "mine host" for two years. Within that structure was held the first election in this part of Stephenson County. James Eells took an important part upon that occasion. In 1838 he returned to his claim and remained there until his death in August 1851.

From the "History of Stephenson County, 1970"

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
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1-815-369-8000
www.pecriver.org
www.paddlethepec.com
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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.

