

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

June 2018



Since the last FPRF Newsletter a lot of things have been happening. The area Boy Scouts again paddled the Pecatonica River. There were a total of 70 participants in the three day paddle. They started at Brewsters Landing, camped at Damascus and Wes Block, finishing at Tutty's Crossing..



As a temporary measure, an Easy Dock Kayak Launch has been placed at the VFW. Several details remain to be addressed. The photograph was taken during the high water of June 10th. The Kayak Launch needs to be attached to a wooden floating dock or additional Easy Dock standard dock sections. That assembly is attached to the shore with two "stiff-arm brackets," cross cables, and an access ramp. The final design choice will determine the cost for the project. The VFW has long been supportive of Pecatonica River recreational use.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

June 21	Monthly Meeting Rafters 6:30 p.m.
July 19	Next meeting Rafters
June 27 July 1	Stephenson County Fair 2954 S. Walnut Rd. Freeport, IL 8 AM-10 PM \$5: 6 years old & up
May12 - Oct. 13	Freeport Farmers Market 721 W South St. CVS Parking May 12-Oct. 13 7 am-11 am
May12 - Oct. 27	Stephenson County Farmers Market 50 W. Douglas 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

www.freeportparkdistrict.org

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

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.

McConnell

In 1836 John Dennison, a Wisconsin farmer, laid claim to one thousand acres of land along the east bank of the Pecatonica River. He planned to build a town. In 1837 John Dennison and his partner John Van Zant laid out lots along the line between Sections seven and eight, which were east of the river in Waddams Township. The spring of 1838 found Dennison and Van Zant selling to Robert McConnell. He would name the new community McConnell's Grove.

Unfortunately, McConnell's success brought too much civilization and he eventually moved on, leaving the nickname of Bobtown. To attract more settlers from Pennsylvania and Germany, the community name was changed to New Pennsylvania. However the post office remained McConnell's Grove and would later be shortened to McConnell and in 1883 and would remain so.

The 1930's saw a lot of changes in McConnell. Fire destroyed the United Brethren Church and the Van Matre Carriage and Hardware Store. The depression closed the McConnell Bank in 1932. 1937 and 1938 saw a new county road constructed through McConnell, from Highway Rt. 26. The road west of town was raised 10 to 12 feet for flood protection.

A new concrete bridge was erected across the Pecatonica River. The river was dammed, rechannelled, and a dike built. This changed the road alignment, eliminating the Grove Street Road and bridge.

Find more on McConnell at: <https://www.facebook.com/McConnellAreaHistoricalSociety/>
Early commercial activity on the Pecatonica River resulted in the river being listed as a navigable stream and that makes it open for recreational use.



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
www.illinois paddling.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.

