

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

July 2018



As a temporary measure, an Easy Dock Kayak Launch has been placed at the VFW and a dock section added. The Kayak Launch needs to be 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. The many paddling trips from Tutty’s Crossing to the VFW convinced FPRF that the additional dock section should be placed. Also under consideration is a cross bar above the center, to aid in standing when exiting the kayaks.

The trip from Tutty’s Crossing to the VFW was the subject of a video posted at “Today in the Port.” and that was followed by a video of Kayak 101 on July 7. The July Flotilla was on the 15th with a total of fourteen paddlers making the trip from McConnell’s Bobtown Landing to McNeil’s Damascus Landing, 7.8 miles..

The last Sunday of July is the schedule date for the Annual Pecatonica River clean up! Last year the event was canceled due to high water. It wasn’t flood level in Freeport, but at the 10 foot level, it is in agricultural areas. Check “Today in the Port” for more information and comments.

We all like to complain about the weather. While we suffer with the current “hot spell” all that rain we had is busy making the weeds grow like crazy at Atten’s Landing. Hopefully the heat will make it dry enough to get back to work at that site. During this lull in working at Atten’s we are reviewing a canoe/kayak launch drawing, from Fehr-Graham, for the Wes Block site.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

July 19	Monthly Meeting Rafters 6:30 p.m.
Aug 16	Next meeting Rafters
July 29	Pecatonica River Clean up Rock Hollow Conservation Club 1931 IL-75 9 A.M.- 1 P.M. Bring dish to pass for picnic 815-559-5690
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
Aug. 11	Cruise Night Union Dairy 126 E. Douglas Freeport 4 PM - 10 PM
Sept. 22	Tour de Freeport Tutty’s Crossing 9 AM - 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.

Brown's Mill

Although named after C. W. Brown, the mill was constructed by E. S. Hanchett in 1852. The dam and sawmill was sold in 1857 to Rhode Island native, C. W. Brown, who had been running a sawmill on Richland Creek, near Oneco. A grain mill was built at the site and it outlived the sawmill. Edward and Charles Brown ran the mill after their father moved into Freeport in 1865. The mill was closed in 1903, but opened again in 1908 when A. J. Goddard converted it to an electrical plant to power streetcars and the interurban railroad. The site was used as a toy factory briefly, and sat vacant much of the time. A fire in 1950 nearly destroyed the structure. It was rescued and the remains converted to a home and remains one today. The road past the mill originally went to Cherry Hill road and lead the traveler to the small community of Nevada. The road ends just past the mill and there is a small piece of it again at Cherry Hill Road. There is still enough of the old dam remaining to stop boat traffic on the Pecatonica unless the river is above six feet at the Stephenson Street river gage.

AN ACT to authorize Caleb W. Brown to build a dam across the Pecatonica river, in the county of Stephenson. In force February 2, 1863.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That Caleb W. Brown, of the town of Silver Creek, in the county of Stephenson, his heirs and assigns, be and are hereby authorized to construct, build, maintain and continue a dam across the Pecatonica river, on that part now owned by him of the northeast fractional quarter of section one, town twenty-six north, of range eight east of the 4th p. m., in the town of Silver Creek, in the county of Stephenson, to the height of six feet above low water mark: Provided, that said grant shall not be construed so as to prevent the State from improving said Pecatonica river, at that place by locks or any other mode, at any time hereafter, for the purpose of slack water navigation or otherwise.*

§ 2. This act to take effect from and after its passage.
APPROVED February 2, 1863.

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.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.

