

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

October 2018



McConnell



Tutty's Crossing



Allen's Landing



Whitewater Park

The theme of this month could be: Water, water, everywhere. We have seen the highest water level since July 24, 2017, but the big difference is the length of time the river exceeded 15 feet. This time we had ten days above 15 feet. To figure out what can help to reduce the impact on our community will be a really challenging endeavor. Heavy rains and saturated ground worked their worst on us. The good news is that our floating dock design has worked well at keeping the docks in place. The plan for fall is to riprap the area by where the dock is moored to the McConnell river bank.

The Illinois Paddling Council held The First Annual Water Trail Conference on October 15th at FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL CENTER, 25055 W. Walnut Lane, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Lee Butler and I attended. One thing was abundantly clear, and that was the fact that water trails bring value to a community. Tourism and quality of life were the two main gains from having a water trail. Another point of interest was the fact that two communities are working on or considering whitewater parks. The history page in this issue continues the subject of clamming and buttons. I'm always looking for old pictures of the Pecatonica River and articles about the Pecatonica River.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Oct. 18	Rafters Lena IL 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	Next meeting
Nov. 10	Holiday Crafts & Gift Expo 9 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Fitness Lifestyle Raquet Center Free
Oct. 26	Galena Balloon Glow 6:30-8:00 P.M. Water St. 1-815-776+9200 Galena, IL
Nov. 9	HCC Fall Concert Concert Band Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Students \$6 815-599-3718
Oct. 27	Trick or Treat Trail Krape Park 3:00-5:00 PM 815-235-6114
Oct. 27	Trunk or Treat Bethany United Church of Christ 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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 Planning for 2019!



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

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



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.

Freeport Journal-Standard August 16, 1922 **CLAM FISHING BOTH PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE**
Clam fishers along the Pecatonica river this summer are finding the bottom of the stream to be very productive of the type of mussels whose shells provide more than \$50,000,000 worth of pearl buttons in the United States in one year.

Thousands of people in Illinois make clam fishing a summer occupation, for it is not only lucrative because of the shells, but many fine fresh-water pearls are taken annually from the bodies of the mussels, and it is a vacation which more than pays for itself.

Scores of clam fishers may be found this summer working down the Pecatonica River, many of them searching for pearls, while others clean the shells and ship them to factories where they are made into the well known pearl buttons.

A government report tells an interesting story of the life of the clam, its commercial value, and method of securing. Part of the report appears as follows:

Fish and Clams

"The clam, from which the pearl buttons are made, lives a quiet life. He toils not, neither does he spin. On the bottom of the river bed he rests, partly embedded in the soft mud, with his mouth open, facing upstream to catch all the food that is brought his way. How the clam got there involves the story of the fish. If there were no fish to nurture the clam eggs, there would be no clams and no white pearl buttons. "What has the fish to do with clams? "Take a close look at the fish you caught last. Along its fins and gills you will find little rough bumps and bunches, all closed over with skin. These are a step in the life history of the clam.

Start as Parasites

The young mussels in one stage of their development must pass through a condition of parasitism on the gills of fish before it is possible to continue development and growth, the fertilized eggs must pass into the brood pouches, modified portions of the gills, and there develop into larva mussels or glochidia.

"When liberated from the brood pouches at the proper season the larva mussels fall to the bottom and perish in a few days unless they come into contact with a passing fish of suitable kind, and succeed in making attachment."

The rest of the article will be in the November newsletter. The article is reprinted with permission of the Journal-Standard. Research past issues of the Journal-Standard in the History Room of the Freeport Public Library.

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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www.paddlethepec.com
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Joe Ginger – President
Dick Haight – Vice President
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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.

