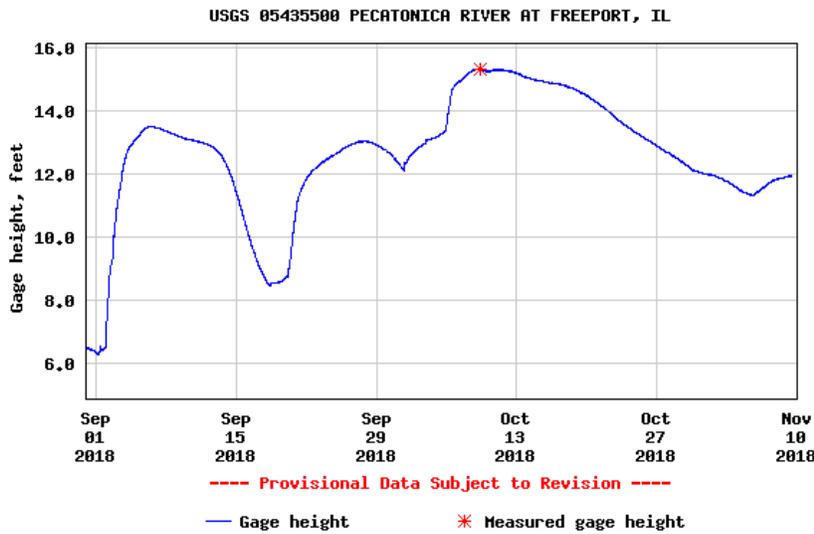


Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

November 2018



Again the theme of this month could be: water, water, everywhere. We have seen high water level since about September 3rd, 2018. The graph is from the U. S. Geological Survey. The device that measures Pecatonica River level is located on the Stephenson St. Bridge in Freeport. The river is into agricultural areas north of Freeport at eleven feet and in Freeport at thirteen feet. The record high is 19.76 feet, March 16th, 1929.

We started 2018 with high hopes. A list of “things to do” was made. I guess we have a start on our list for 2019. The big accomplishment was the number of people that paddled from Tutty’s Crossing to the VFW. Some of those people had their first paddle on that section of the water trail and that makes having an Easy-Dock at the VFW very important. We plan to add another dock section next year. We mowed at Hancock Avenue Marina and Wes Block. We repaired the overlook/fishing piers at McConnell and had the port-a-potty replaced. Five “flood proof” trash bins were placed at McConnell and Atten’s Landing. A DR Mower/Trimmer was donated, repaired, and tested at Atten’s Landing. This will help with the mowing at that site. We now have, thanks to Fehr-Graham, a drawing for a launch at Wes Block area. We were planning and have the permits to add rip-rap at McConnell. We must wait until the river goes down for that to happen.

On the equipment front, the lowboy trailer is now ready to haul equipment. Repair of the tractor to pull it is nearing completion, and repair of the loader has advanced. Next year may be very busy.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Nov. 15	Rafters Lena IL 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	Next meeting
Nov. 30	Lena Hometown Christmas Parade/Walk 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Dec. 6	FHN Singin’ At the King King Community Campus 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM 511 S. Liberty Ave. Freeport, IL
Dec. 2	Annual Christmas Concert Embury Methodist Church 515 S. Galena Ave Freeport 3 PM - 5 PM 815-235-9157
Dec. 6	Rise ‘n Shine Breakfast 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Hosted by the Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau 4596 US Route 20 East
Nov. 30- Dec. 1	Christmas Cookie & Goodies Open House 312 Church CT, Dakota, IL Call: 815-291-8693

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**
I left off with the glochidia looking for a passing fish which to attach. This period of parasitism may vary in length from nine days to two weeks and sometimes longer. It takes years to grow the clam. Much depends upon the character of climate where the clam is deposited. Some grow rapidly but may be of little commercial value. The shells in the Mississippi Valley are thick and firm with a clear luster and in some cases display beautiful iridescence. Often the shells are strikingly ornamented with knobs and ridges delicately tinted or deeply colored with various shades of pink, salmon, red or purple. Coloring however is not an important element. A clear lustrous finish with a peculiar toughness or a sense of bitterness and chalkiness is what the button manufacturer desires.

There are approximately five hundred species of fresh water mussels in the United States, however which are practically all found in fresh water draining regions. Waters drained from regions where limestone exists generally are productive fields.

When clam shells were first sought it was for pearls. They were scooped up and after examination for pearls discarded. Shell products worth millions of dollars were thus wasted. Clam fishing still has back of it a desire to find pearls, but the sale of clam shells has become a usable byproduct.

"The best pearls are usually found in the posterior, which projects from the mud into the water."

Several Methods Used.

"Several methods are used in the Mississippi Basin for gathering clam shells." A shovel that scrapes along the clam bed allowing muck and water to escape retaining the shells is one of the oldest devices. Dip nets, dredges, rakes, forks, and tongs are also used. About seventy percent of the clams, however, are gathered with an apparatus known as the crow foot hook. The crow foot method is based on the characteristic habits of fresh water mussels as they rest with the open end of the shell against the current. If a stick or hook touches the shell opening the mussel at once closes lightly and will hold even while being dragged from the bottom and hauled into the boat.

The shells are dumped into a large vat, and water is brought to a temperature to kill the mussel. Taken from the vat, the mussels must each be handled separately as the meat is picked out, later to be examined for pearls and slugs. When the shells have been cleaned the water is carefully drained through a net to recover any pearls which may have been lost in the cooking process.

"Blank buttons are cut from shells by powerful machines and the blanks are polished, trimmed, and bored by devices designed especially for this purpose."

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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.

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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 2019.
All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to:
Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

