

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

DECEMBER 2019



One of the goals for this year was to have Atten's Landing ready for use. The picnic tables, fire rings, grills, trash containers, fishing piers, and the parking lot were ready. We need to repair the roof on one of the fishing piers. The spring flood left every launch site damaged in some way. The spring flood changed our goals. Cleaning and repairing Bobtown Landing became the new focus. We had an opportunity to begin work on the Wes Block Launch, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate. A second flood canceled all of our plans. Next year we will evaluate each launch site and develop a revised plan.

When I began kayaking, I read a lot of magazines about the subject. Now you can search on the internet, and I recommend that you do. We tell new paddlers that they quickly develop the skills to begin paddling. The people who have paddled with Lee from Tutty's Crossing to the VFW have shown a rapid learning curve.

I've mentioned to several paddlers that "A broach is more than a piece of pretty jewelry." It is also when the direction of the current is perpendicular to the side of the kayak, and a heavy current "pins" your kayak against a tree trunk. The water will climb the side of your kayak and fill or flip your boat. This is why we recommend paddling when the Pecatonica River is below ten feet deep. At lower river levels the current flow is slow enough to allow maneuvering around most obstructions. Take some time this winter to visit YouTube sites on kayaking.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Nov. 21	Rafters Lena, IL 6:30 P.M.
Jan. 16	Next meeting
Jan.9 Feb.13	Alzheimer's Support Group 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Estates Bld. Liberty Village of Freeport 2080 W Navajo Dr Keelie Oswald 815-233-2400
Feb. 22	YMCA Mardi Gras Grand River Hall Contact Information Dawn Reed 815-235-9622 Tickets available at Family YMCA of Northwest IL
Apr. 4	FPRF Spring Thaw Logan's Bar & Grill 815-232-4592 Open 4 PM Dinner 6 PM 1805 S. West Ave
Mar. 13-15 2020	Canoecopia Allegant Energy Center Madison, WI
Dec. 21	FPRF Birthday

Other Events & Activities

Freeport/Stephenson County
Convention & Visitors Bureau
4596 U.S. 20 East
Freeport, IL 61032
1-815-233-1357
1-815-233-1358 (fax)

www.celebratefreeport.com

FPRF Events

Applebees Flapjack Breakfast February 22, 2020

FPRF & Logan's Spring Thaw Apr. 4, 2020

FPRF at Big O's On the Hollow Fish Fry Sept. 18, 2020

Culver's Food Service Oct. 27, 2020 4 PM - 9 PM

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>



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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 Bureau, 9 East and through the mail.

A limited number of "Pecatonica River Scenes in Postcard" are available at \$12 + \$3 S&H.



The Freeport Motor Boat Club

Mr. George Yoder ran a rowboat livery on the south bank just upstream from the Cedarville Bridge. About 1910 or 1911 several more motorboats appeared on the river and most of them docked with Mr. Yoder, as he was short of room the motorboat owners leased ground across the river just west of the bridge.

They built a twenty by thirty foot clubhouse with clubroom, kitchen and locker room. This was set on posts set as to be above high water. They also had a floating dock. The space between the posts was used to store some of the smaller boats in the winter. This was boarded up with doors in front.

The boats were launched and pulled out of the water by means of tackle, hung from the bridge. The clubhouse was the scene of many parties both for the members and their families. In winter skating parties were held good ice permitting. The club also had a cabin about seven miles up stream for camping and picnics.

In 1927 the building was moved upstream to the bend about ¼ mile. The club disbanded about 1930 due to most members buying cars and selling their boats. The building was sold and is at present used as a residence. The structure on the right is the Van Buren St. Bridge or aka Cedarville Bridge.

If you are interested in improving river stewardship, promoting paddling, organizing river events, the history of the Pecatonica River and communities along the river, check our website and contact us.

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

50 W. Douglas St. Suite 1002

Freeport, IL 61032

1-815-369-8000

www.pecriver.org

www.paddlethepec.com

www.illinoispadding.org

email: pec@pecriver.org

*We will not share or sell your email address.

Joe Ginger – President

Mickie Dittmar – Vice President

Lee Butler -- Secretary /Treasurer

Roger Schamberger – Governmental Liaison

Mickie Dittmar & John Fritz – Fund Raising Chair

Joe Green – Site Development Manager

Betty Butler -Membership

Jim Leamy- Safety Chair

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.

