

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

FEBRUARY 2020



MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Feb. 20	Rafters Lena, IL 6:30 P.M.
Mar. 19	Next meeting
Mar. 14 & 15	Depot Stove Gang 32nd Annual Show & Swap Meet 516 Fremont, Lena, IL 10 A.M.
Jun. 5 Jul. 15 Aug. 7	Music on Chicago Freeport, IL
Apr. 4	FPRF Spring Thaw Logan's Bar & Grill 815-232-4592 Open 4 P.M. Dinner 6 P.M. 1805 S. West Ave
Mar. 13-15 2020	Canoecopia Allegant Energy Center Madison, WI
Apr. 4	Kayak Raffle Drawing

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



Pecatonica River Scenes in
 Postcards \$12 +\$3 S&H
www.peccriver.org/projects



Joe Ginger, president

I have many pictures showing the Pecatonica River flooding in Stephenson County. Flooding is what rivers often do. No matter how much time and money spent, floods will come. Frequently streams are straightened as an effort to control flooding. Levees are used but also fail. Rising Tide, by John M. Barry, gives an interesting history of the Army Corp of Engineers and their attempts at controlling the Mississippi and other rivers. The biggest success with managing the Mississippi is dredging for barge traffic. Even dredging has a colorful past.

One colorful and fun thing is a jade kayak! That is an introduction to the kayak raffle FPRF is having to raise funds for our launch site construction. Included is a Sun Dolphin Jade Aruba 10' kayak, a kayak paddle, a personal floatation jacket, and a cart for moving the kayak. Tickets are \$10 ea. or 3 for \$20. See any member or call 815-275-2710. The drawing will be at the Spring Thaw event. Introductory lessons are included.



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

"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.

A Woman's Perspective on Kayaking



About a year ago I met a very nice lady. It was during a kayak flotilla, which is a kayak term simply meaning a large group of people enjoying kayaking together for a few hours.

The beautiful Pecatonica River is usually quiet, but that day, during the flotilla, it was a little different. There was a buzz of people engaged in lively conversation and enjoying each other's company. I was engaged in quite an interesting conversation with one lady in particular, so of course, I asked if I could share it. Here is her story.

Twenty-five years ago, while she was working in Germany, she was invited to an outing for rafting. She also noticed there was some kayaking. That day she chose kayaking, and that decision changed her life. Her first time kayaking she was taught to use a sprayskirt, which keeps water out of the boat. She explained her first reaction in the kayak, "I loved it! It was like being one with the water."

She went on to describe how enjoyable was the feeling of the waves and moving side to side with the river currents. She related how intense the adrenaline was as she maneuvered through the fast-moving waters. She compared it to the slower but charming Pecatonica, and how delightful it was with this new group of friends. She expressed it as "dancing on the water" as she paddled along.

It was a wonderful feeling to experience this through her. I knew I had made a friend! It was an added treat that together we could share memories of Germany and our passion for kayaking.

Betty C. Butler & The HMS Pink Kayak
Membership Chair bettydws@yahoo.com

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

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

*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 2020.
All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to:
Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

