

# Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

# THE CURRENT

AUGUST 2020

A small band of people got together with the goal of making the Pecatonica River a Water Trail. We used the guidelines developed by the Illinois Paddling Council. They had developed seven water trails in the Chicago area. We identified Brewsters Landing, near Winslow, as the first landing in Illinois. It was created in 1970 as part of a road widening project. Two sites looked promising. One was a former dump site at McConnell, and the second site was on Cedarville Road, near Damascus. Hard work by Roger Schamberger resulted in Lena Community Park District developing that site and later the site at McConnell. The Pecatonica River Water Trail was extending to Freeport, and the site, which became Tutty's Crossing, included a motorboat launch! During this early time the VFW was a constant source of help and encouragement. It remains our "go to" site for beginners. There is a big gap between McNeil's and Tutty's Crossing. FPRF was able to develop access at Wes Block. Except for the Pecatonica River raising 2.5 ft, work would have started on a launch at that site. Cross your fingers. Work may start this month. Also we've been notified Boat Access Area Development Grant applications are possible this year, and we hope to submit an application.

A problem developed at Tutty's with lower water level. Mud is obstructing the kayak launch. It may be necessary to make some changes. We will work with Freeport on this issue. The mud has been cleared from the boat ramp. Fishing continues. We talked to two paddlers, who paddled and fished from Wes Block to Tutty's. Here is a picture of the paddlers.

We haven't mentioned much about fishing. We know the IDNR Fish Biologist and there are a lot of good fishing in the Pec. The water is not polluted, and the fishing is great!

Joe Ginger, president



## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Aug. 20  | Zoom meeting.<br>6:30 P.M.  |
| Sept. 17 | Next meeting.               |
|          | Stay safe!                  |
|          | Wear a mask.                |
|          | Stay healthy!               |
|          | Practice social distancing! |
| Sept. 18 | Fish Fry?                   |

## 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](http://www.celebratefreeport.com)

## FPRF Events

Comming.

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](http://www.freeportparkdistrict.org)

Lena Community Park District

609 N. Schuler St.

Lena, IL 61048

1-815-369-5351

[www.lenaparks.org](http://www.lenaparks.org)



Pecatonica River Scenes in Postcard - Book 2

Pecatonica River Scenes in

Postcards \$12 +\$3 S&H

[www.peccriver.org/projects](http://www.peccriver.org/projects)

THE FRIENDLIEST PADDLE  
IN ILLINOIS

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.*

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What impact does COVID-19 have on kayaking?

As horrible as this pandemic is, I've tried to find something positive in these stressful days. I've noticed people are spending more time outside, and as an active kayaker myself I can't help but notice more people on the water in their kayaks with family and friends.

Staying safe is always important, and with proper guidelines kayaking can be one of the safest and most enjoyable of outdoor activities. I have actually heard comments from complete strangers, who have recently taken up kayaking, and this is something they hadn't thought of before.

Even with the new "Norm" of social distancing and wearing masks I have still met some new people. We need that peaceful feeling of gliding down the river and taking in the sounds and sights as an antidote to the stress brought on us each day!

I know there are new people taking up this activity because stores were already sold out of kayaks a few months ago. I take this as a good sign that people are becoming serious about kayaking, and there will be even more next year.

So my friends, let's get those kayaks out, paddle safely with social distancing, follow shuttle rules, and enjoy the rest of the summer and into the fall on the beautiful Pecatonica River.

Stay safe and happy paddling!

Betty C Butler and the HMS Pink Kayak  
bettydws@yahoo.com

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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](http://www.pecriver.org)  
[www.paddlethepec.com](http://www.paddlethepec.com)  
[www.illinoispadding.org](http://www.illinoispadding.org)  
email: [pec@pecriver.org](mailto: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.

