

# Friends of the Peconica River Foundation

# THE CURRENT

FEBRUARY 2021

Have you found any interesting paddling videos on YouTube? If you do please, send me the link and we'll put it on our website. I can't think of a better way to share knowledge. Informing paddlers is one of my goals.

This is the time of the year when paddlers are thinking about the Canoeecopia paddling show in Madison. From the Internet, we find: Canoeecopia three-day event typically draws 40,000 people to Alliant Energy Center and is canceled this March due to COVID-19. The 2021 event will be an online event. The Show Guide for the upcoming Canoeecopia will be up on the web in early February. Until then, you can check out the most recent Show Guide to get an idea of what you're in for! <https://www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia/showguide.asp> is the current link to the event.

Over the winter is when FPRF works on setting the priorities for the work/paddle season. The Wes Block launch will top our list. It provides an interesting paddle and finishes at Tutty's Crossing. We are considering starting construction of the floating dock in the early spring and at Lena. We already have the EZ-Dock unit for the launch site. We will likely be recruiting workers to help with the building. Then we will return to work at Atten's Landing.

Last year we got behind schedule on mowing at Atten's. We are going to look at burning the grasses to avoid the same problem this year. If we are successful in controlling the grass, we can keep the site mowed with the equipment that we have. We can use some more rip rap as the river wants to erode the north bank, and I want to develop a simple canoe and kayak launch setup. The site plan calls for a walking path around the simulated oxbows. We will need to move a lot of dirt to make that happen.

Once the island for the kiosk is finished, a porta potty will be a happy addition to the site and make primitive camping possible.

As we are still dealing with Covid-19, paddling remains an activity that naturally does social distancing, you may find canoe and kayaks in short supply again this year. To help with this possible shortage, we will again hold a raffle. \$10.00 each, 3/\$20.00. Check our website for information.

Joe Ginger, president

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| FEB. 18 | Zoom<br>6:30 P.M. |
|---------|-------------------|

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| MAR. 18 | Next meeting. |
|---------|---------------|

Wear a mask!  
It saves lives!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/il--freeport/events/>

See above site for scheduled area events.

Practice social distancing!

Paddle on.

## Other Events & Activities

Freeport/Stephenson County  
Visitors Center  
4596 U.S. 20 East  
Freeport, IL 61032  
1-815-233-1357

### FPRF Events

Coming soon Papa Murphys,  
March 31, 2021

**Kayak Raffle drawing July 1, 2021.**

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)



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

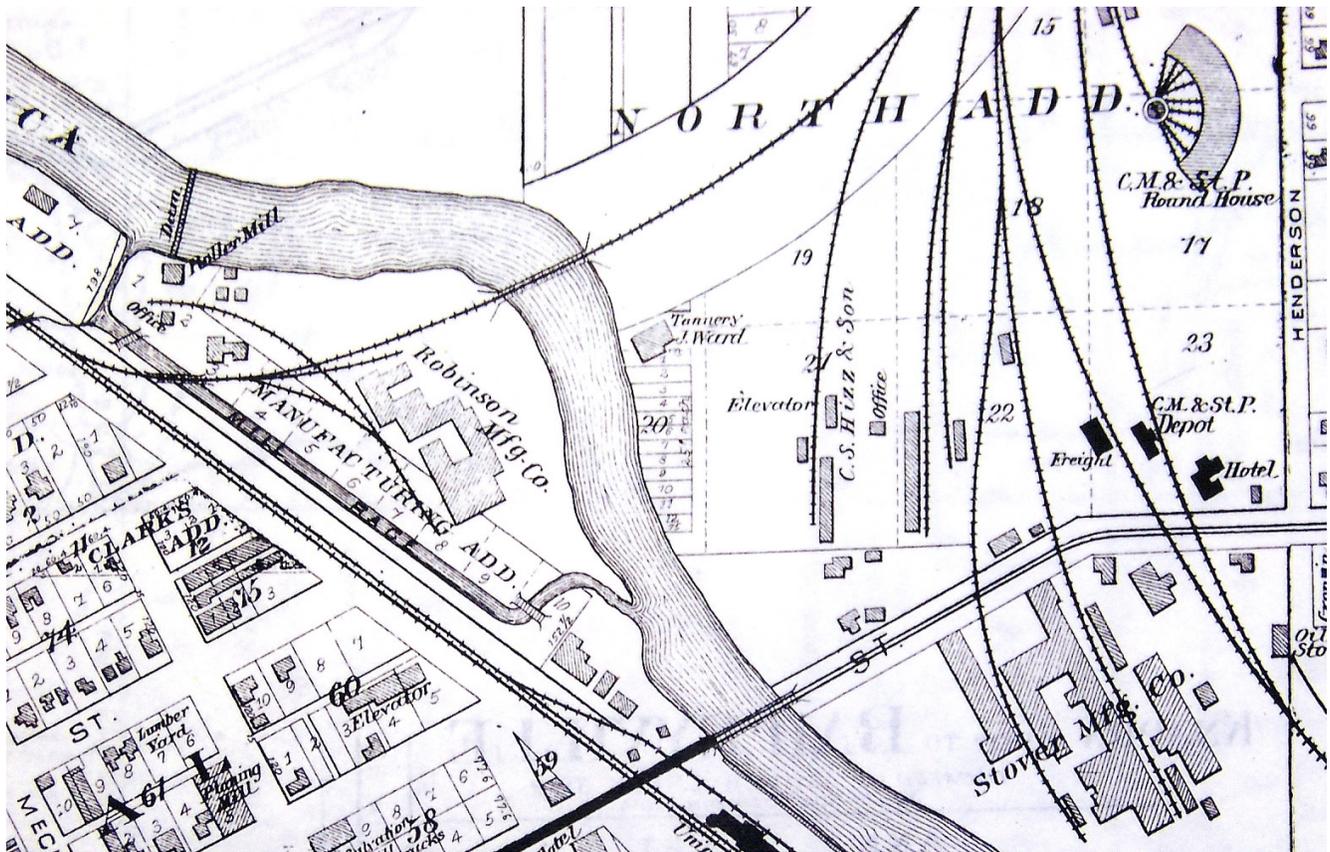


Pecatonica River Scenes in  
Postcards \$12 +\$3 S&H  
[www.pecriver.org/projects](http://www.pecriver.org/projects)

**"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.



I've mentioned this many times. The river gave Freeport an edge on development as it provided power to harness for manufacturing. The railroads of the area made the area a hub for manufacturing. In the foreground is Stephenson Street as it crosses the river. It became Taylor Avenue at the bend before Henderson Road. Honeywell is on the Stover site. Note the hotel near Henderson Road. History shows that hotel moving from the north side to the south side of Taylor Avenue and later burning to the ground. This map is from before 1890.

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

email: [pec@pecriver.org](mailto:pec@pecriver.org)

\*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.

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

