

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

August 2023



Last month the FPRF pontoon boat journeyed from McNeils Damascus Landing downstream to evaluate the obstruction south of the Route 20 bypass. The picture shows what we found. Because we have a small engine, we chose not to get any closer. We could not power our way out of an entanglement. Thanks to hard work, determination, and experience, a group from Wisconsin attending the Pecatonica River July river cleanup attacked this mess. Now boats can travel from the Damascus launch to the launch at Tuttys Crossing! The recipe for accomplishing this task includes experience, knowledge, and hard work. We are expecting them to come to the FPRF August meeting.

Some of you might know that McNeils Landing was closed by the construction beginning on Damascus Rd. By August 13, Cedarville Rd should be open. The closure was to be while working on the south end of Damascus Rd. It would be great if the City of Freeport removed the silt that makes the Tuttys Crossing canoe/kayak launch unusable. You must use the concrete ramp.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Aug 10	RAFTERS 6:30 P.M.
Sept. 14	Next meeting.
1 Oct. 12 Nov. 9	FPRF meetings are the second Thursday of the month. See "ALL IN. Stephenson County" for area events.
Sept 3	Art in the Park Krape Park 10 AM-5 PM
Sept 23	Pretzel City Brewfest
Nov. 18 & 19	Mistletoe Walk
Sept. 23	Pretzel City Brewfest 12 PM -4 PM CDT
	https://www.eventbrite.com/d/il-freeport/events/

Other Events & Activities

Freeport/Stephenson County

<https://greaterfreeport.com>



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



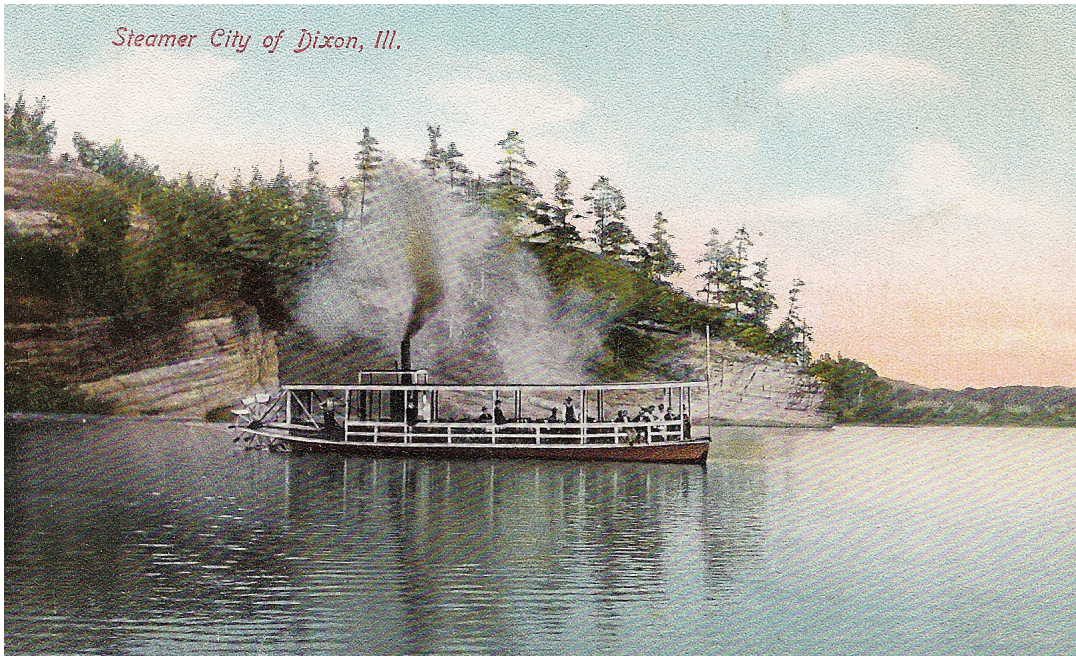
Pecatonica River Scenes in Postcard - Book 2

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 Bureau, 9 East and through the mail.

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



In July 1853 John Bradford, Sr. of Winslow built a steamboat named the "William S. Russell." It was eighty feet long, twenty-four feet beam, 3 ½ feet in the hold, drew fourteen inches of water and was rated at thirty tons. Its builder, John Bradford, Sr., an early settler at Winslow, was captain, John Bradford, Jr., was mate; C. Howard was clerk; James Horder and R. M. Mack were engineers, while William Cox was pilot. It made its first trip in July 1858 carrying 104 people on its maiden voyage from Freeport to Winslow. The newspaper was pleased with its success, but apparently Capt. Bradford was not as he sold the machinery elsewhere after three years. Fisher's Mill Dam was built above McConnell by 1870 ending such a route from Winslow to Freeport. A boat should have prospered with all the business from such a large area, but the river just didn't have enough water to make the operation of this type of boat a profitable venture. The end of steamboats was coming as the railroads expanded across the country.

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

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www.illinoispaddling.org

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*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 – Fundraising Chairs

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 2024.

All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to:

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

