

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

January 2023

As we stand with more than a week into 2023, FPRF board members are gathering on a new meeting date. We are switching to the second Thursday of the month. This change will give us access to individuals with the talents and drive necessary to reach our goals for the river to be the resource to attract tourists. It also helps us to promote activities listed in Greater Freeport Partnership. They have been working long and hard to promote Stephenson County activities. Our meeting and newsletter came out too late in the month to take full advantage of their work and advertise activities.



The Wes Block launch awaits the 2023 paddle season. This launch was our main goal for the 2022 paddling season.

Most of you know that the Pecatonica River has two branches in Wisconsin, and they meet at Browntown. The north branch starts north of Blanchardville, and the west branch starts west of Mineral Point.

There are four river gages along the Pecatonica River. There is a gage at Darling, WI, Martintown, WI, Freeport, IL, and Shirland, IL. These sites report and record streamflow and river depth. The Pecatonica River is approximately 92 miles long in Illinois, draining 805 square miles. In Wisconsin, the two branches cover a total area of 2,641 square miles. The Sugar River joins the Pecatonica River near Shirland IL and drains 760 square miles. The Pecatonica River joins the Rock River near Rockton, Illinois.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Jan. 12	RAFTERS 6:30 P.M.
Feb. 9	Next meeting.
Mar. 9 Apr. 9	FPRF meetings are the second Thursday of the month. See "ALL IN. Stephenson County" for area events.
Jan. 9 Apr. 2	FHN Get Fit 2023
	Rise n's Shine Breakfast
	Business After Hours
	Small Business Saturday
	https://www.eventbrite.com/d/il--freeport/events/

Other Events & Activities

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

FPRF Events

Any suggestions for 2023?



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 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.

SUCKER STATE.

In an address of July 4, 1876, Gen. Smith D. Atkins gave two explanations of the sobriquet, sucker, as applied to the people of Illinois, as follows : "Many settlers in Illinois came from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. They were mostly poor people, unable to own slaves and many of them were in senti- ment opposed to slavery, and were seeking a new, country where slavery did not exist. Southern Illinois was principally settled by these people, who with their families penetrated the wilderness, with all their household goods on pack animals and themselves upon foot, depending on their trusty rifles and fishing rods for sustenance on the way. They were emigrants from the poorer classes of the slave states, and being unable to own slaves came to Illinois to get away from slave domination of their wealthy neighbors. The tobacco plant has many sprouts from the root and main stem which, if not stripped off, suck up the nourishment and destroy the staple. These sprouts are called suckers, and are as carefully stripped from the main plant and thrown away as the tobacco worm itself. These poor emigrants from the slave states were jeeringly and derisively called "suckers," because they were asserted to be a burden on the people of wealth ; and when removed to Illinois, they were supposed to have stripped themselves from the parent stem, and gave way to perish in the wilderness like the suckers stripped from the tobacco plant. But we wear the title proudly now, for, the stone rejected by the builders has become the chief stone of the corner, and in intelligence, morals, material prosperity and population, Illinois has far outstripped her poor old mother, Virginia, and surpassed Kentucky and Tennessee. The cognomen was misapplied. Slavery was the "sucker" from which they fled and the "subtle corps of sappers and miners," that "sucked" the life blood out of the states from which the early settlers of Illinois emigrated.

But there is another generally accepted sobriquet of "suckers," the nick- name of Illinoisans. Lead was early discovered in the vicinity of Galena, and in 1824 Col. James Johnson, of Kentucky, had gone there with a party of miners and opened a lead mine about a mile above the present city of Galena. Many crossed into Wisconsin and worked mines in "indian territory." Others followed in great numbers. The southern Illinoisans ran up the Mississippi in the spring season, worked the lead mines during the warm weather, and ran down the river again to their homes in the fall, thus establishing a similitude between their migratory habits and the fishy tribe known as "suckers," that run up a stream in the spring and down the stream in the fall. No matter how it came about, the term "sucker" will stick to the people of Illinois, while wood grows and water runs. From History of Stephenson County by Addison L. Fulwider, Volume 1, pulished by The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company. The History Room at the Freport Public Library has copies. When Illinois did not join the South in supporting slavery, many from southern Illinois made a hurried evacuation to support the south.

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

1-815-353-2852

www.pecriver.org

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 – Fundraising Chairs

Joe Green – Site Development Manager

Betty Butler -Membership

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 2023.

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

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

