

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

July 2023

We hope you were able to go downtown to enjoy Tutty Fest. The organizers worked hard to make it an enjoyable celebration for our community.

We continue to get positive feedback on the Wes Block launch. This site was on our original list of locations for launches. The order of launch site construction depended on many factors. We wanted a “park-like” setting at McConnell that echoes the site plan at McNeil’s Damascus Landing. We will see a second kiosk at Wes Block as an Eagle Scout project, starting very soon. Roger Schamberger plans to add a swing to the north side of the parking lot. The plan also includes a grill at each table, as at McConnell. We are creeping towards completing construction at this site. We think we have resolved the trash problem at McConnell.

There is good news concerning Attens Landing. The IDNR has scheduled a visit to the site. FPRF submitted a BAAD Grant application. The plan is for a motorboat lunch and a canoe/kayak launch. If successful, this would be the only public launch on the Pecatonica River between Pecatonica and the dam at Brown’s Mill. There is a public launch downstream from Tutty’s Crossing. The launch is upstream from the Hancock Ave Bridge. The ramp is steep and can be slippery. I do not recommend it.

It might be possible to create a launch near Ridott. The Pecatonica Prairie Trail passes north of the Ridott Post Office. There is a bend in the Pecatonica very close to the trail. So far, we’ve not found any local interest. We are already busy enough.

Joe Ginger, president

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

July 13	RAFTERS 6:30 P.M.
Aug. 10	Next meeting.
Sept. 14 Oct. 12	FPRF meetings are the second Thursday of the month. See “ALL IN. Stephenson County” for area events.
Jul. 23	7 pm - 8 pm Music Under The Stars Koenig Bandshell
July 30	Pecatonica River Clean Up 8 AM-11:30 AM
Aug. 12th	Cruise Night 2023 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Admission
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



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

Here is some cool information for you. By the Triassic period (250 million years ago) the upper Midwest was just about all dry land. While dinosaurs undoubtedly roamed over Illinois, they did so on a land surface several hundred feet above the one we currently tread. Any fossils or other relics they may have left were long ago eroded, ground to sand and clay, and washed out to sea along with the eroding bedrock.

As the landscape of the upper Midwest was eroded away, rivers carved deep valleys into the surface. The valleys of Richland Creek and the Pecatonica River were nearly 100 feet deeper just before glaciations than they are at present. But during glacial advances of the Pleistocene Epoch of the last two million years, much sediment accumulated in the valleys. As the ice advanced from the east, it blocked the flow of the Pecatonica. A large lake, called Lake Silveria, occupied portions of the valleys of the Pecatonica, Yellow Creek and Richland Creek. Over the span of several centuries, this sediment filled the valleys to their present level. A brief surge of the ice during the Illinoian glacial advance saw the glacier spread as far west as Stockton, Illinois. But after the ice melted away the streams, with a few exceptions, resumed their old courses atop their thick valley fills. One notable exception is at Buena Vista, where the Pre-glacial Richland Creek took a broad bend about a mile to the North and West of its present course. The ancestral stream course was apparently blocked by sediment and ice for a period after the glacier melted away from the region, and a narrow gorge was eroded through a spur of rock at the present site of the village. From Increase Lapham's 1844 Geographical and Topographical Description of Wisconsin: "The PEKATONICA, is the principal stream, rising a few miles west of Mineral Point, and running in a southeasterly direction through the southeast corner of Green county, passes into Illinois, where it makes a long bend to the south, and enters Rock river five and a half miles below the State line. It is a sluggish stream, remarkable for the great number of short bends or crooks, running through a beautiful and romantic valley, bordered by high bluffs. This is my favorite geology source. Now you know why fossils are not found in Illinois.

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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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.

