

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

THE CURRENT

June 2023

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Everyone is invited. Bring your ideas!

Jun. 11	RAFTERS 6:30 P.M.
Jul. 13	Next meeting.
Jul. 13 Aug. 9	FPRF meetings are the second Thursday of the month. See "ALL IN. Stephenson County" for area events.
Jul. 7-9	Tutty Baker Fest
July 30	Pecatonica River Clean Up 8 AM-11:30 AM
Aug. 12th	Cruise Night 2023 4 p.m.-9 p.m.
Sept. 23	Pretzel City Brewfest
	https://www.eventbrite.com/d/il-freeport/events/

Other Events & Activities
Freeport/Stephenson County

<https://chamber.greaterfreeport.com/>



The launch at Tuttys Crossing is in place. Soon the launches at McConnell, Damascus, and Wes Block will be back in the Pecatonica. As a short reminder, Tutty's Crossing site needed an EPA and IEPA cleanup. It took many hours of work and dedication to clean this site. Tuttys is the trailhead that connects to the Wes Block site. And on into Wisconsin. The Pecatonica Prairie Path is the eastbound exit from Tuttys and is the trail to Winnebago County. For more bike information, contact Chainlinkcyclists. Find them on Facebook.



This picture is from Sept. 10, 2011. It takes lots of work to obtain funding for projects and maintenance. There is a learning process in every project. Some of the issues, like sedimentation at the launch, are an ongoing process. Several problems with sediment have eluded a long-term remedy. This challenge will likely continue, as will logjam problems.

Joe Ginger, president

Pec-n- Paddle

Kayak Rental Service 6 AM-6 PM
(815) 275-2064 (815) 990-2307

Shane and Sharolyn Page

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.peccriver.org/projects



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.

I found this information in an email. I've mentioned that the railroads played an enormous part in the development of Stephenson County. This explains some of that history. The Jane Addams trail was the northern railroad connection to Wisconsin, and paddlers will see remains of a railroad bridge when paddling from Brewsters Landing. This information is from a document called JATWAYFINDERHISTORY, written 10/16/01.

In 1887 the Illinois Central ran a line north from Freeport to Madison, Wisconsin. The line ran through Scioto Mills and Red Oak. At Red Oak, the Illinois Central built a junction station where the line branched. The northern branch, running through Buena Vista and Orangeville, became known as the Madison branch of the Illinois Central Railroad. This branch is what now constitutes the Jane Addams Trail.

The route closely followed Richland Creek, which has its headwaters just south of Monroe, Wisconsin. This route was chosen for three reasons. First, building a rail line on level ground made good economic sense. Second, this path is a relatively straight north-south path between Monroe and Freeport. And third, the railway intended to make a profit from transporting passengers and freight. Building the line to connect the municipalities along the way was a sound economic decision.

The Richland Waterway was ideal for the early construction of mills, and several municipalities grew up around these mills. Between the Wisconsin and Illinois state border and Freeport, five mills and resultant towns were established on the banks of the Richland long before the coming of the rail line, and the railroad established stations at four of these five towns.

By 1888 there were three major railroads, with freight houses, shops, yards, and station houses, competing in Freeport. The rate wars that occurred in these years resulted in the Illinois Central Railroad building its own line directly from Freeport to Chicago. The Illinois Central could now compete directly with the Chicago North Western for the Rockford and Chicago traffic with a shorter and faster line.

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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Joe Ginger – President
Mickie Dittmar – Vice President
Lee Butler -- Secretary /Treasurer
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Mickie Dittmar & John Fritz – Fundraising Chairs
Joe Green – Site Development Manager
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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 2023.

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

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation.

