FREP Downstream E-Newsletter

Featuring news, updates & meeting announcements for the Fox Watershed

Friday, February 27, 2009 **Greetings from FREP!**

FREP's Annual Conversations About Conservation With Our Legislators

Attendees pose with legislators during the 2007 ***Conversations About Conservation With Our Legislators*** event

Friday, March 6, 2009, 10:45 AM - 1:30 PM
Prisco Community Center
150 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora Mapquest Link

*****FINAL REMINDER AND REQUEST FOR RSVP!*****

This annual FREP event is an excellent opportunity for us to get to know several of our watershed state legislators and discuss environmental and conservation issues with them. The FREP Government Relations Committee has arranged a great program.

The draft agenda includes:

Keynote Speaker: Fran Cella, Elgin Gifford Park Association
on behalf of State Senator Michael Noland
Keynote Speaker: new State Rep. Kay Hatcher, 50th District - Yorkville
Remarks by: Jack Darin, Director of Sierra Club of Illinois
Q&A Panel Session

We are inviting all of the state legislators serving within the Fox River Watershed to this event. All who attend will be invited to offer comments and participate in the Panel Session.

A light lunch will be served at the end, with a $5 donation requested.

Please plan to attend this special event. This is the 8th year of FREP's "Conversations" and each year we have had great opportunities to meet and discuss issues of importance with many different legislators.

If you have a good relationship with one of the watershed legislators, please encourage him/her to participate. Please share this invitations with others you think would be interested in attending.

An updated list of our legislators, event invitation, and the agenda can be found HERE.

******To assist us in planning for room arrangements and the lunch order, PLEASE RSVP to Becky Hoag by calling 630-482-9157 or Email: foxriverinfo@comcast.net.**

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 (NOTE: this replaces our February 18 FREP Noon Network)
6:30 — 8:30 PM
Topic: CMAP's Go To 2040 Community Conversation
Location: Gail Borden Library, Community Rooms, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin **Mapquest Link**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is developing the *GO TO 2040* plan to develop and implement strategies for addressing growth and its serious implications on quality of life issues including transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and natural resources. CMAP is teaming up with the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP), the Elgin Alive series, and the Gail Borden Library to host a *GO TO 2040* Community Conversation. We want to hear your environmental perspectives about how this region should plan for 2040. Bring your ideas and views to what will be a very interactive session.

Please register with the Gail Borden Library either in person at the Adult Services Information Desk, by calling 847-429-4680, or on-line at www.gailborden.info (Calendar). The library is located at 270 North Grove Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

For more information, please visit www.GOTO2040.org.

FREP Noon Networks:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Noon - 1:30 PM
Topic: Dixie Briggs Fromm Stream Corridor Restoration
Location: Algonquin Village Hall, 2200 Harnish Drive, Algonquin, and then visit to the site

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 - TBA

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
Noon - 1:30 PM
Topic: Valley Lakes Pond & Wetlands Project
Tallgrass Restoration & Valley Lakes
Location: Round Lake Police Dept. Meeting Room & onsite tour of project

Noon Networks are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. Bring your lunch to eat during the program.

Program Presentations Online: If you missed a recent Noon Network or program, you can find many presentations in pdf form on the FREP Website at: http://foxriverecosystem.org/presentations.htm

Of Interest

NEWS FLASH - via Illinois Environmental Council

Governor Quinn announces reopening of seven state parks. Link

Illinois RiverWatch Network Refresher Workshops for Citizen Scientists
Schedule for March - May

Eagles on the Fox
Local "super" outdoor enthusiast Ken Gortowski of Yorkville has created a beautiful blog with photos of his experience in observing eagles along the Fox River. Go HERE to read and enjoy. Thanks for sharing, Ken!

Spring River Cleanups
Local groups are starting to organize their Spring River cleanups. We will be happy to share the information on the FREP Website and in the E-Downstream. Just email your information to Becky. Below are two:

Saturday, April 4, 8 AM Indian Creek Cleanup - Aurora Flyer

Saturday, May 16, 8:30 AM - Noon Batavia Fox River Clean-Up

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore
800 N. State Street, Elgin Website
ReStore Elgin is a 40,000 sq. ft. building materials reuse center benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley. ReStore accepts donated new and gently used goods from retailers, manufacturers, distributors, contractors and homeowners. Building supplies are then sold, at greatly reduced prices, to the general public. The store's operation generates funds to support Habitat's house building program in the northern Fox Valley area, while reducing the amount of material that would otherwise go to overflowing landfills.

FREP is looking for Noon Network and meeting program ideas. Please email Becky if you have a project to feature or a topic to present, or one you'd like to hear about. We are also always looking for new places to hold our meetings. If you have a facility to offer, please let Becky know.

Grant Opportunities

Visit the Grants & Funding Page on the FREP Website. Be sure and check out the link to NEW LISTINGS.

Becky Hoag, Communications Manager, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership 630-482-9157
foxriverinfo@comcast.net Please Email me if you have an Email to add to our mailing list.
FREP WEBSITE: http://foxriverecosystem.org

Please use the new link below to be deleted from the FREP Email list, or to make an Email update.