



Protecting Illinois' Rivers for People, Fish, and Wildlife

WE DID IT! WATER POLLUTION PERMIT FEES FOR FACTORY FARMS

BY STACY JAMES

As we go to print, the Clean Water Funding Fairness Bill awaits signing by Governor Quinn to become state law. Factory farms will now have to pay an annual fee if they have a water pollution permit to discharge animal waste into rivers and streams. All other industrial-scale polluters already pay such permit fees to cover the costs of the Illinois EPA's regulatory program for industrial water pollution.

Factory farms produce meat at an industrial scale. Housing hundreds or even thousands of animals, they can produce as much waste as a small town. Illinois was cited by the USEPA for inadequate regulation of livestock pollution in 2010. Prairie Rivers Network noted the industry's unique exemption from fees and realized that without fees, there was little hope of the State ever developing an adequate regulatory program. So, we began working with lawmakers and the Illinois EPA on a fee bill.

We want to thank our partners and sponsors for all the hard work they put into the passage of the bill. Environment Illinois led our efforts in Springfield and Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water connected

people living near factory farms with lawmakers and the press so they could share their stories of how factory farms affect their water and their lives. Representative Tryon (Crystal Lake), our House sponsor from the beginning, secured bipartisan support and defended the bill in committee and on the floor. We were very happy when Senator Frerichs (Champaign) picked up the bill this spring and took it to the finish line in the Senate. Please thank the bill sponsors, especially if you are a constituent. And finally, thanks to our members who responded to our calls to action by picking up the phone or signing letters of support.

While this bill is finished, we are not! This bill was just the beginning of our efforts to reduce pollution from factory farms. We worked on the bill not only to create a funding mechanism for the State, but also to educate legislators on the topic of livestock pollution. Believe it or not, animal poop is not top on the list of legislative priorities (we know, you're shocked!). Passage of the Clean Water Funding Fairness Bill puts us in a better position to work with legislators in the future on state laws that will significantly change the way that livestock waste is managed in Illinois.

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As we move forward, we will continue to walk among the many friends we made through this effort. Those friends include people like Cindy Bonnet, a farmer from Jo Daviess County who wrote letters-to-the-editor and spoke with legislators. Cindy used to raise livestock, is a member of the Farm Bureau, and recognizes the importance of clean water and healthy communities. Janice Ashwood and Ramona Cook, who live in rural McDonough County, convinced their legislators to support the bill. These and other friends are happy to help us because they live with the day-to-day impacts of livestock pollution and industry-friendly regulations. //

Victories like these are only possible with the financial support from our members.

Thank you.

GREETINGS FROM GLYNNIS

Prairie Rivers Network's London Project

For the next year, these Greetings will originate from abroad: London, UK. Many of you know that my husband is a university professor; starting in September, our family will be living in London to allow him to take a sabbatical there. I will carry on with my Prairie Rivers Network duties remotely, thanks to the wonders of e-mail, Skype, and internet phones. With our seasoned professional staff and the constructive working relations between staff and our board of directors, I'm confident of a seamless continuation of our operations.

In addition to my regular work, I'm looking forward to taking some time to explore the systems and institutions that protect clean water and healthy rivers in Great Britain. The list of threats to water there sounds very familiar: aging sewer infrastructure, so-

called "diffuse pollution" from farm fields and city streets, declining native fish populations and a constant onslaught of invaders – no doubt there are approaches to addressing these problems that we can learn from.

As always, please feel free to get in touch. My e-mail address is:

gcollins@prairierivers.org

Tell Us What You Think

Are we tackling the river issues you care most about? Are you hearing from us often enough and in the right ways? Please take our survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/J8GDY5Z

Cheerio!



Get the Inside Scoop (with real ice cream) on Upcoming Environmental Legislation



Special Guests: State Rep Naomi Jakobsson and Phil Bloomer, Comm. Dir for U.S. Rep Tim Johnson

When: Saturday, August 25, 2012
2-4 pm

Where: Prairie Rivers Network
1902 Fox Drive, Suite G
Champaign, IL 61820

RSVP: Suggest your favorite ice cream flavor and let us know that you are coming so we can order enough ice cream:

insidescoop.eventbrite.com

Bring a friend - everyone is welcome!

prairieriversnetwork

...strives to protect the rivers and streams of Illinois and to promote the lasting health and beauty of watershed communities.

By providing information, sound science, and hands-on assistance, Prairie Rivers Network helps individuals and community groups become effective river conservation leaders.

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45 YEARS OF RIVER PROTECTION

BY ERIC FREYFOGLE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To many, the story is well known. To all who hear it, it is inspiring.

It began in 1967 around a campfire, with a sense of frustration and a resolution to take action.

Providing the motivation was a plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to build another reservoir on the Sangamon River, one that would flood Allerton Park. The Corps had moved beyond reasonable waterway projects to construct anything Congress was willing to fund. Citizens had to respond.

First to rise up were Patricia and Bruce Hannon. Others soon joined. Facts were gathered, government reports were scrutinized, and the folly of the project laid bare. The project took years to end. As it did, an enduring conservation group emerged, first called the Coalition on American Rivers, then Central States Education Center, and now Prairie Rivers Network.

The Allerton fight was followed by clashes over similar Corps of Engi-

neer projects throughout the Midwest. Related fights unfolded along the Mississippi, with its oversized navigation locks. John Marlin came on as full-time executive director, yet citizen volunteers provided most of the traction. And the aim, as Bruce Hannon put it, remained the same: to help local people resist, turning unsuspecting citizens into active environmentalists.

In time, fights against reservoirs gave way to fights over landfills and other unwanted land uses and to waste-reduction efforts. At that point, 30 years into its life, the organization took stock of its future. Out of the self-scrutiny came a new-yet-old focus for the organization, along with a new name: Prairie Rivers Network.

Within two years the verdict was in: The new mission was sound and Prairie Rivers Network, ably led, was poised to expand. New programs arose, experienced staff came on, and Prairie Rivers Network added to its scientific, legal, and political savvy. Its vitality attracted the attention of the National Wildlife Federation, which proposed an alliance. Success

in pressing the state to enforce the Clean Water Act set the stage for further work: protecting aquatic and riparian wildlife habitat; promoting waterway restoration; challenging coal operations; heightening awareness of farmland ills; and pressing to separate the Great Lakes and the Mississippi. No longer was the aim simply to halt unwanted land uses. Laws and public policies had to change, for only in that way could progress endure.

This fall we celebrate our 45th anniversary with an organization that has, in staff, programs, and effectiveness, grown three-fold over the past dozen years. A new strategic plan will soon emerge. New alliances are being forged. And more work lies ahead on the reform of water law, drainage law, factory farm siting and more. The work remains vast, but as part of a network of Illinoisans demanding clean water and healthy rivers now and for future generations, we can achieve our vision. //



PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK ANNUAL DINNER - OCTOBER 5th

Join other river enthusiasts and Prairie Rivers Network's engaging staff and board members for good conversation, good food and fun. Keynote speaker Richard Lazarus will inspire, as we celebrate 45 years of protecting Illinois' environment.

Richard Lazarus, an Urbana native and U of I graduate, has long been prominent in the national environmental movement as a scholar, Supreme Court advocate, and, most recently, Executive Director of the President's Commission on the BP Oil Spill. Now a Professor of Law at Harvard University—after years on the faculties of Georgetown and Washington University—Lazarus is best known for representing the environmental side in many Supreme

Court cases, where he sought to uphold land-use and environmental laws and to defend against claims that the government may not limit activities on private land without financial compensation. As a scholar Lazarus has written extensively on environmental justice, the criminal enforcement of environmental laws, and the Supreme Court's dismal record in environmental cases. As Executive Director of the Oil Spill Commission, he oversaw the federal effort to identify the root causes of the oil spill and to recommend changes in law and policy.

Go to prairierivers.org/dinner for more information.

Look for your invitation in late August.//

Do you own or run a business?

Support clean water and healthy rivers with a Business Membership in Prairie Rivers Network. Business sponsors can be recognized at the Annual Dinner. Learn more at prairierivers.org/business-members

CALLING FOR RIVER STEWARD AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know a volunteer who is working hard to protect the state's rivers and streams?

Help celebrate and elevate their important work with a nomination for our 8th Annual River Steward Award to be presented at our Annual Dinner on October 5th.

Go to our website to nominate your river steward:

prairierivers.org/?p=10630

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 20, 2012.

RIVER STEWARD AWARD WINNERS

Scott Hayes - 2011 • Kathy Andria - 2010
Gary Mechanic - 2009 • Joyce Blumenshine - 2008
Mary Pat Holtschlag - 2007 • Fran Caffee - 2006
Jan Holder - 2005

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF ILLINOIS RIVERS

The Bruce Hannon Friends of Illinois Rivers recognizes those members who have pledged an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to sustain the work of Prairie Rivers Network into the future.



Stephanie and Ralph Alexander
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Bill Davey
Cecily Smith and David Delaney
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Bruce Semans
Trent Shepard
Bill Van Hagey
Sherry Weaver
Sherrill and Richard Worthen

EAGLES AT HOME ON THE MIDDLE FORK

BY ELLIOT BRINKMAN

For the first time in living memory, eagles are returning along a few rivers in central Illinois. Prairie Rivers Network friend and wildlife photographer David Hale took these photos this Spring along the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River—Illinois' only designated National Scenic River.



Preparing for take-off

Bald eagles had been pushed to the brink of extinction by DDT, water pollution, and habitat loss. Now Dave has witnessed firsthand how water quality has improved and natural habitat has returned to the valley where he has lived and worked since boyhood. A pair of bald eagles built a nest high in a sycamore tree above the river in Spring 2010 and have returned every year since. Dave has spent hours photographing the activity, and we are grateful for his willingness to share his photos with our readers.

Decades ago, the Middle Fork was threatened with destruction by a dam project. Local residents fought the project and won. Their success in protecting this small piece of riverine wilderness in the middle of a dramatically altered landscape

led to state—and later federal—protections that are allowing 11,000 acres of wildlife habitat to recover along 17 miles of river. Now we can watch the eagle populations grow—2 chicks last year and 3 this year.



Soaring over the Middle Fork

Thanks to its status as our national emblem—a symbol of freedom—the bald eagle inspired thousands of people to ensure its survival. Every day at Prairie Rivers Network, we advocate for policies to protect the healthy stream corridors needed by hundreds of other species that lack such charisma. As we take a moment to celebrate this story, we also take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and donors for making these successes possible.



Lunch time for hungry eaglets

See our website for more of Dave's pictures and reports from the eagles' nest!//

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Welcome Bruce!

We are delighted to welcome new member Bruce Semans, a Springfield physician. Bruce cares deeply about land and water conservation and places great value in connecting people to the land and water in order to foster a conservation ethic

among the general public. He has supported past Prairie Rivers Network's efforts in this area, including our partnership with the Illinois Natural History Survey on the Traveling Science Center. Some of Bruce's work on the board will be to help increase our membership in the Springfield area.//

MISSISSIPPI MEMORIES: MY LIFE IN ANOKA, MINNESOTA

BY REBECCA GEARHART, essay contest winner

The gentle way that the Mississippi River flowed past my childhood home did not change much during the 1970s and 80s when I lived there, and its presence was a source of stability when everything else seemed to move too fast. The river figures prominently in my earliest memories, and “foofoo,” the name I called it, was one of the first words in the unique vocabulary that I spoke. Having the river in my life was a privilege that I can honestly say my younger sister and I were aware of while growing up. This is because our parents consciously positioned our activities indoors and outdoors so that we could not only see the river, but watch it. My mother’s favorite place in the house was the bay window in our living room, where she perched each morning while she sipped her coffee. My father’s morning spot was the hot tub he built on our deck over-looking the river, in which he read the daily paper—even in the winter.

When the weather was nice, my family gathered on the patio or in our porch, where the river was the backdrop to all of our serious conversations about school, work, and the future. When it was a particularly beautiful evening, we all went for a boat ride, which meant a floating cocktail party for my parents, and a chance to get out on the water for my sister and I, albeit at trolling-speed. From our position on the river, my parents critiqued new landscaping and other exterior improvement, or dishevelment as the case may be, of our neighbors’ places. We always spoke in hushed voices during these excursions, since we knew from experience that water carries sound and the people sitting on their patios could hear us the way we heard the critics who passed by our house.

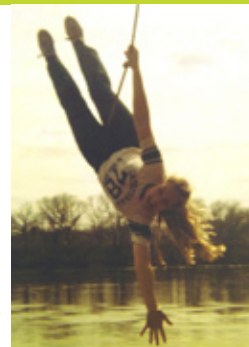
At least once a summer, we joined another family or two and organized a float-trip, which entailed inflating large inner tubes and rafts, and driving 10 miles up the Rum River to a place near a bridge where we could leave our car parked for the day. We loaded a cooler of snacks, pop, and beer into one of the rafts, and stopped at a sandy stretch of beach for lunch about halfway down the route. The Rum flows much slower than the Mississippi does, and there were several places where we had to paddle to keep moving. Our flotilla picked up speed as we neared the confluence of the two rivers, the place that signifies “Anoka,” or “where two rivers meet” in the Lakota Indian language.

As a teenager, the river played an even more significant role in my life, particularly in the summer. My girlfriends and I spent many Saturdays sun tanning in our boat, and flirting with the guys who regularly sped by to show off their talents on water skis and boogie boards. If I had to pick a favorite combination of sensations, it would be the feel of a cotton towel against a warm vinyl seat; the combined smell of baby oil, river water, and Fresca; the polyphony of Steve Perry and a distant Mercury engine; and the vision of sunlight dancing on the water. Though people say that youth is wasted on the young, we could not have fully tapped our romantic sense of adventure at any other time. We looked good in swim wear, our bodies were pliable enough to perform dazzling feats while hanging on to a ski rope, and our minds did not keep us from reckless stunts like barefoot skiing by moonlight.

Though I now live in the middle of Illinois and quite far from a natural body of water, I recall those sensations whenever I need to. Even if “living in the present” is the mantra of my generation, I often take time to close my eyes and remember the happiest moments of my past. I do this weekly at the end of my workout, when I belt out the words to REM’s “nightswimming” and imagine the scene from my old bedroom window. I see the huge oak trees and the carpet of green grass, the pitched roof of the boat house, the patch of orange tiger lilies, the large rock along the bank, and the patterns of ripples on the water beyond. A group of ducks paddle by, I hear a fisherman cast a line just off shore. And now I’m running barefoot, through the yard and down the railway tie steps. I sit down on the edge of the dock and dip my feet in. The cool, brown water laps at my ankles, and the warmth of the sunshine washes over me.

Whenever I return “home” for a visit, I try to sneak a peek at the stretch of Mississippi River that meanders by my old house and the houses where many of my friends once lived. To those of us who grew up there, the river holds some of our favorite stories, and runs through our memories like the blood through our veins.//

Read more about the author of this winning essay from Prairie Rivers Network’s “Our Upper Mississippi River: Connection, Inspiration, Transformation” contest at: prairierivers.org/?p=10134X



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Thank you for your support!

All members receive our newsletter and action alerts. Your contribution to PRN is tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: Prairie Rivers Network, 1902 Fox Drive, Suite G, Champaign, IL 61820

\$10,000 RAISED BY OUR ILLINOIS MARATHON RUNNING/WALKING TEAM

A BIG THANK YOU to the runners, walkers, volunteers, and sponsors

Our team ran and walked a total of 250 miles in 45 hours at the Illinois Marathon in April and raised \$10,000 from over 185 donors to help protect clean water and healthy rivers.

Lucy Bannon – half marathon – 2:08

Lisa Bayer – 10K – 1:08

Elliot Brinkman – marathon – 3:10

Eunsuk Chei – half marathon – 3:52

Jean Flemma – half marathon – 2:15

Beverly Hertle – half marathon – 4:01

*We hope to see
your name on
this list next year!*

prairierivers.org/run

Michael Kammin – 5K and marathon – 0:27 and 3:44

Rob Kanter – marathon – 4:06

Genevieve Long – half marathon – 1:57

Brian Nudelman – half marathon – 2:30

Vickie Nudelman – 10K – 1:17

Nancy Pagaduan – 5K – 0:38

John Popovics – marathon – 3:01

Janet Rasmussen – half marathon – 4:01

Cecily Smith – 5K and 10K – 0:51 and 2:02

Nathan Unsworth – 5K and marathon – 0:32 and 3:39



Jean, Gen, Vickie, Michael,
Brian, Elliot, Rob

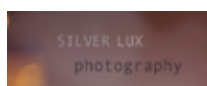


PRN staff, members, and friends
volunteered to hand out water at mile 23

Thank You Sponsors



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45 WAYS TO CELEBRATE PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORKS' 45TH ANNIVERSARY

prairierivers.org/45-for-45

UPCOMING EVENTS//



PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK'S SPEAKERS BUREAU

Invite our professional staff to speak to your group about clean water and river topics:

- 45 Years: PRN's History of Advocacy in Illinois
- Asian carp and the Future of the Chicago Area Waterways
- Bridging Science and Policy to Advocate for Healthy River Systems
- Coal's Impact on Clean Water in Illinois
- Don't Rush to Flush (pharmaceuticals)
- Illinois: The River State
- Factory Farms in Illinois
- Protecting Water Resources in Illinois
- Coal Permitting Process
- Rain Gardens: Benefits and Installation
- Starved Rock Sand Mine

prairierivers.org/speakers-bureau

"INSIDE SCOOP" ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Aug 25, 2012 in Champaign, IL
sadams@prairierivers.org

RAIN GARDEN TOUR
Sept 8, 2012 in Champaign, IL
sjames@prairierivers.org

PRAIRIE RIVERS HAPPY HOUR
Aug 14, 2012

IT'S OUR RIVER DAY
Sept 15, 2012

PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK'S
ANNUAL DINNER
Oct 5, 2012

CLEAN WATER ACT 40TH ANNIV.
Oct 18, 2012

CHECK OUR ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS:

Redneck Asian Carp Fishing Tournament
Great River Rendezvous
XStream Cleanup
Sangamon River Cleanup
FLOATZILLA
Riverlands Rush Adventure Race
Illinois Water Conference
National Public Lands Day
Summer of Paddling

PHOTO ATTRIBUTES//
Prairie Rivers Network, masthead
CulinaryGeek.net, 2
Jason Lindsey, masthead, 3
David Hale, 5
Rebecca Gearhart, 6



You can earn money for Prairie Rivers Network while shopping - visit prairierivers.org for more info.



Prairie Rivers Network is the Illinois Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.



If you participate in a workplace giving campaign, look for ESI and designate Prairie Rivers Network to receive your contributions.