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Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers.



Prairie Rivers Network E-News

March 15, 2013

The Vermilion River: Embracing the Future

Please join us at Kickapoo Landing on Thursday, March 28, for lightning talks and discussion on the future of the Vermilion River system. Topics will include fish and wildlife, dam removal, coal, and others.

[Read more...](#)

Tiny Cause for Joy - Grass Shrimp Found in Des Plaines River

The rare [Mississippi grass shrimp was recently found in the Des Plaines River](#). This is the first documentation of this species in Lake County, and it's a good sign. Also known as glass shrimp, these little critters are indicators of cleaner water systems and healthy habitat. Our rivers are getting better thanks to your support.

Prairie Rivers Goes to Washington

Two members of our staff, Elliot Brinkman and Robert Hirschfeld, recently spent a few days on Capitol Hill advocating on behalf of Illinois communities, water, and wildlife. Nearly every program, no matter how important or fiscally sound, is on the chopping block in DC. Lawmakers need to hear that conservation is not only a necessary good in its own right, but also an [economically effective investment](#).

Your voices were heard when Prairie Rivers Network delivered the message that clean water and healthy rivers are important!



Elliot Brinkman (right) with Senator Durbin (center)



Robert Hirschfeld and Jared Teutsch after meeting with Senator Kirk's staff

Homer Coal Update

Prairie Rivers Network has been helping residents in Homer protect their farmland and drinking water supply from a proposed coal mine. After nearly one year of deliberation, resident organizing, and public meetings, the Homer Village Board [voted in February to reject a contract](#) to provide treated water and sewer services to Sunrise Coal LLC's proposed Bulldog coal mine.

Unfortunately, just a month later the Village Board turned around and [approved the same contract by a vote of 4-3](#). While this is disappointing news, the mine still has major obstacles - including securing huge quantities of raw water for washing coal. [We will continue to stand](#) with local residents working to protect the Salt Fork River and the area's groundwater from being damaged by the coal mine.

[Join us on Facebook and stay up-to-date.](#)

Changing Course: Re-envisioning the Chicago River with Studio Gang Architects

A recent Salon article asked, "[Can the Chicago River Be Saved?](#)"

We reply, "Yes." It can be transformed into a valuable public space for the whole region. Strangely enough, Asian carp could help turn that vision into reality. Right now, a variety of stakeholders are looking to address the threat of carp while making the river a thriving centerpiece of Chicago life. [Prairie Rivers Network](#) will be hosting an event with [Healthy Water Solutions](#) in Chicago on April 3 to describe this new vision for Chicago's waters.

Please join us!

Wednesday, April 3, 5-7pm
 Holiday Inn - Mart Plaza, West Point Ballroom
 350 W. Mart Center Dr.
 Chicago, IL 60654

Heartland Coalfield Alliance Organizing Retreat - May 17-19

Join the Heartland Coalfield Alliance for a two-day retreat in the heart of the beautiful Shawnee Forest! This retreat will focus on building the skills, networks and campaigns we need to create a just and sustainable energy future in America's Heartland.

[Read more...](#)

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

March 28 - [Vermilion River: Embracing the Future](#)

April 3 - Changing Course: Re-envisioning the Chicago River with Studio Gang Architects

April 6 - [Boneyard Clean-Up](#) in Champaign-Urbana

April 25 - [Green Politics Night at Escobar's](#) in Champaign

April 25-26 – [Run for Your Rivers at the Illinois Marathon](#) in Champaign-Urbana

April 29 – [Springfield Rain Garden Workshop](#)

May 4 – [Peoria Rain Garden Workshop](#)

May 17-19 - [Heartland Coalfield Alliance Organizing Retreat](#) in Ozark, IL

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