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E-News for September 18, 2013

Prairie Rivers Network Annual Dinner — October 11, 2013

Celebrate clean water and the rivers of Illinois with Prairie Rivers Network at our [Annual Dinner](#) in Champaign! Our keynote speaker will be Robert McChesney, leading scholar on media trends, democracy and progressive change.

Also, don't miss fun music by Tom Turino during our cocktail hour!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 2.

Join the staff, board, and fellow river friends at our Annual Dinner



[Register Here](#)

Rain Garden Ramble!

Join us for a Rain Garden Ramble and enjoy a guided bicycle tour of Champaign [rain gardens](#)!

We will meet the owners of residential rain gardens and also learn about the City of Champaign's stormwater utility fee and rain garden incentive program.

WHEN: Saturday, September 21, 2013, 2 - 4 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at the Prairie Rivers Network office (1902 Fox Drive, Suite G, Champaign) at 1:50 p.m. for a 2 p.m. start.

This is a FREE event.

- Bring your bicycle and wear your helmet! (Helmets are **REQUIRED**.)
- This will be a group tour, but we'll provide route maps if you want to go at your own pace.
- Recommended age for young riders is 12 years or older. (We'll be riding on city streets.)

If bike riding doesn't suit you or if your children are under 12 years old, stop by and pick up a map—you can drive to meet us at the beautiful rain garden sites!

We'll finish at the Custard Cup (309 W Kirby Ave, Champaign) around 4 p.m. (But the custard is on you!)



[Please RSVP here!](#)



Champaign County's Water

In this panel discussion, learn where Champaign County's water comes from, where it goes to, and how we can protect it along the way. Kim Knowles and Robert Hirschfeld from Prairie Rivers Network will participate alongside other water experts.

Where: Champaign Public Library, 200 W Green St., Room Robeson A

When: Thursday, September 26, 2013
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Panel and discussion 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

[View our webpost](#) for more information.

Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story

Our August E-News had the wrong link included for this video. We apologize for the error.

Troubled Waters tells the story of the unintended consequences of farming on the health of the Mississippi River. Fertilizers and pesticides leave farm fields during storms and make their way into our river systems, eventually draining into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Every year during the summer, a Dead Zone forms in the Gulf because of this pollution. This informative documentary by PBS is about an hour long.



Great Lakes Bioneers Chicago - Nov. 1 - 3, 2013



[Registration is open for Great Lakes Bioneers Chicago!](#)

Bioneers are social and scientific innovators who are mimicking nature's operating instructions to help humans to live on Earth in ways that honor the web of life, each other, and future generations.

Traci Barkley from Prairie Rivers Network will run a workshop on "getting off the coal train." There are many exciting speakers and workshops about fixing our problems in an earth-minded way.

Honorary Ralph Frese Way

Legendary canoe champion Ralph Frese will be honored with the naming of the street next to his Chicagoland Canoe Base after him.

Ralph Frese, before his passing in December 2012, launched thousands of people and canoes into explorations of Illinois' waterways, particularly in the Chicago area. He started many paddling events and designed and built canoes, some as long as 34 feet! He was also a fourth-generation, working blacksmith. Read a nice overview of what Ralph was all about on [ChicagoNow](#).



Honorary Ralph Frese Way will be dedicated on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at 4019 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago.

Seminar Series: Freshwater Availability

Traci Barkley from Prairie Rivers Network and other water experts will speak during this series on the problem of freshwater availability, organized and hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Urbana.

Where: Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, 602 W. Green Street

When: Sundays, October 6 - November 17, from 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Free and open to the public. For more information, see [the flyer](#).

Round-Up for Prairie Rivers Network at Common Ground Food Co-op!

We wholeheartedly thank Urbana's [Common Ground Food Co-op](#) for selecting Prairie Rivers Network to benefit from the Co-op's "Round-Up" program during the month of September. There's still time for you to "round up" your grocery total to the nearest dollar--all the extra money will go toward protecting clean water!

PRN in the News

- [Concerned citizens speak out against threats to water](#) (September 16, 2013)
- [Divestment key in Univ. of Illinois strive toward sustainability](#) (September 13, 2013)
- [Environmentalists warn of Ohio River threats](#) (September 9, 2013)

- [Locals protest Route 71 proposed Starved Rock sand mine site](#) (August 19, 2013)
- [Environmental concerns remain over Dynegey coal ash ponds](#) (August 19, 2013)

REGISTER NOW:
Prairie Rivers Network Annual Dinner
Oct. 11, 2013

Other upcoming river events:

- [September is Round-Up Month](#) for PRN at Common Ground Food Co-op (Urbana)
- [It's Our River Day](#) September 21 (Statewide - many events and cleanups!)
- [Sangamon River Clean-up](#) September 21, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Mahomet)
- [Mississippi River Earthtones Festival](#) September 21, 12 noon - 11pm (Alton)
- [Urbana Champaign Sanitary District Open House](#) September 21, 9 am- 3 pm (Urbana)
- [Salt Fork River Art & Music Festival](#) September 28-29 (Fairmount)
- [Take a Child Outside Week](#) September 24-30 (Nationwide)
- [Biennial Governor's Conference on the Management of the Illinois River system](#)
- [Riverwatch Symposium](#) (as part of the above conference) October 1 (Peoria)
- [Green Business Summit](#) October 15 (Tinley Park)

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