

Challenges to Sustainability in Central Illinois

Public Seminars Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana

11 a.m. Sundays, April 8, 15 & 22

From the first European immigrants that settled the rich prairie of Central Illinois, the area has offered its residents a fragile environment with diverse flora and fauna, highly productive farmland, space for development, and abundant clean water. But the ecosystem that has sustained both the human and natural community is increasingly threatened. This seminar series will explore some of the threats and consider how citizens can engage to reduce them.

Sunday, April 8 – Threatened and Endangered Species and Fisheries in Illinois: Who are they, what local changes impact them, and why does that matter?

Dr. A. Patton, Paleobiologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois, former member of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Sunday, April 15 – The Bottomless Aquifer: Our Source of Abundant Fresh Water Faces a Growing Human Population, Increasing Agricultural and Industrial Use, and Contamination Threatens Sustainability of the Source?

Oliver Matheson, former head of the Groundwater Section of the Illinois State Water Survey and currently a Senior Groundwater Engineer with HDR Inc. in Chicago

Sunday, April 22 – Development in Champaign County: Given the county's Land Resource Management Plan, given the long-term viability of agriculture, our natural resources, and our urban landscape, what is urban and agricultural in already developed areas, and guarantee social and economically desirable use of those resources?

Frank Ebbens, retired leader of Planning and Community Development with the Champaign Regional Planning Commission and currently a member of the Champaign County Planning Board or Appeals

