



Dear Friends,

We don't have to tell you that the start of this new decade has been a particularly hard one. Communities around the world and right here at home are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and families are struggling with economic uncertainty. But we also know that clean air, water, food, and a stable climate are universal basic needs that all families depend on, too. That is why now, more than ever, we remain committed to our mission to protect water, heal land, and inspire change—work that is vital for a healthier world.

Sadly, before the coronavirus pandemic even started, the Trump Administration had already unleashed a crusade against environmental protection, and Illinois agencies charged with protecting our land and water have suffered major declines in budget, staff, and effectiveness. Matters will only get worse as the powerful and politically-connected fossil fuel and ag industries take advantage of the coronavirus crisis to demand weaker rules on pollution and cash bailouts for themselves at the expense of hardworking, struggling families.

Non-profits often do the work that local, state, and national governments can't or won't do. There are so many worthwhile charities helping our communities every day. And the work Prairie Rivers Network does is essential—right now and into the future. We will work to ensure all Illinoisans have access to clean water. We will promote strong, local food systems and supply chains that improve the health of our environment and our communities. We will make a clean energy future a reality—building a robust green energy sector that will help avert the looming climate crisis while creating jobs. These programs are vital to environmental and public health, and we need you to join us in carrying them out.

We are so grateful for our members, who trust us with their donations because of our 50+ year history of getting things done. At our Annual Dinner last year, we asked guests why they value being a PRN member:

"PRN is doing real and tangible work to protect the environment and protecting habitat for wild creatures."

"They do the heavy lifting"

"This is an organization that picks the important river issues and organizes effectively in a grassroots way. They increase awareness, lobby, and get laws passed!"

"I am proud to be a small contributor to such important environmental work."

We understand this is a time of economic uncertainty for families. That is also true for non-profits across the state and country. **So, if you are financially able and you believe in the work that we are doing to confront the ongoing and emerging environmental and public health crises, we are asking you to give your annual donation right now** – give for the first time, renew your membership, or make an extra gift today. Together, we'll get through this and ensure a better future.

Sincerely,

The staff at Prairie Rivers Network

On Climate and COVID-19

The world is changing in fundamental ways. We are living in unprecedented times.

The COVID-19 crisis has upended our daily lives, our work, our livelihoods, and our interactions with friends and family. The impacts are felt worldwide, with the most vulnerable among us at greatest risk. And as one immediate crisis unfolds, another lurks in the background threatening to amplify and exacerbate every problem arising from the global pandemic. The climate crisis will only pose further threats to public health, food security, clean air and water, and climate stability. The foundations of civil society are going to be tested.

The convergence of these two crises will impact everyone for years to come. With the understanding that public and planetary health are inextricably linked, we have to act... today. Every minute we wait, we make the task ahead more difficult. That is why Prairie

Rivers Network is fully committed to doing everything it takes to protect the health of our communities.

As events unfold, we see parallels in our collective response to both COVID-19 and the climate crisis. There has been a failure of leadership at the federal level, where data, expert experience, and science have largely been ignored. Complacency and denial in the face of overwhelming evidence have hampered response efforts and squandered opportunities to get ahead of the curve. What we need now, more than ever, is bold decisive action to address these crises for the long-term health of people and the planet.

We are heartened by the actions of our family, friends, and neighbors to self-isolate and take care of others. We are grateful to the people who work on the frontlines during this crisis, ensuring that everyone gets healthcare and access to basic needs.

In fighting COVID-19, we all must be part of the solution. If we are to address the growing and worldwide climate crisis with similar dedication, we must all act collectively.

What PRN is Doing

We at PRN remain steadfast in our mission. Our work to protect clean water, promote healthier farming practices, and advance clean energy have taken on a heightened urgency in recent weeks.

The work Catie Gregg does to educate farmers of the benefits of regenerative agriculture holds carbon sequestration, climate, and food security at its core. Collectively, we can protect our soil and environment while simultaneously improving the availability of healthy food and bolstering rural economies.

Likewise, Kim Erndt-Pitcher raises awareness of the damage that dicamba and other herbicides do to our food crops and trees. Her work ensures that farmers, crops, and the birds and insects that pollinate them, are safeguarded.

We will continue to promote renewable energy while addressing the environmental and public health impacts posed by fossil fuels, ensuring a cleaner, more secure energy future. In this difficult moment, we must continue to stand up for what we believe in. We must continue to care for one another, and for our planet. In doing so, we strive for a brighter future for all. //

IN THIS ISSUE

DIRECTOR'S NOTES.....	2
PROTECT WATER.....	3
HEAL LAND.....	4
MEMBERSHIP LISTING.....	5
INSPIRE CHANGE.....	9
MOST ENDANGERED RIVER.....	10
THANK YOU, ERIC!.....	11



DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Elliot Brinkman

First and foremost, I hope you, your family, and loved ones are safe amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Everyone at Prairie Rivers Network wishes you good health during these unprecedented and difficult times. I often use this space in our newsletter to discuss the relationship between current events and the work we do. However, I never would have imagined that I would be writing about the profound impacts a global pandemic poses for our work and for society.

There have been a few changes to our operations. As you may know, PRN closed its office on March 13th as a preventative measure, and staff have been working from home. We have had to cancel or postpone several in-person events and meetings, and we are actively working to devise virtual options to stay connected with our members, partners, and friends.

Despite these changes, we remain committed to our mission. We are living through a transformative moment in history, and yet, our core values and work have never been more relevant. Every one of us believes in what we have historically advocated for: clean water, healthy and abundant food, and communities free of pollution. None of that has changed.

What has changed is our awareness that these issues are even more important now than they were two months ago. We need to invest in clean water, improved food systems, and secure, renewable energy. These are absolutely critical as we work through this crisis and once we emerge from it.

The staff, board, and members of PRN are dedicated to promoting a better, more just, and more peaceful world. We hope the contents of this newsletter demonstrate that dedication. We are extremely grateful for all of you, our network of members, supporters, partners, and friends. You enable our ability to make progress on these important issues, even in the face of change. Please stay safe, and stay tuned as our work continues. //

At Prairie Rivers Network, we protect water, heal land, and inspire change. Using the creative power of science, law, and collective action, we protect and restore our rivers, return healthy soils and diverse wildlife to our lands, and transform how we care for the earth and for each other.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JON MCNUSSSEN
President

BILL VAN HAGEY
Secretary

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL
Treasurer

MARGARET BRUNS
CLARK BULLARD

ELLYN BULLOCK

JEAN FLEMMMA

ROB KANTER

CHARLOTTE WESTCOTT

STAFF

ELLIOT BRINKMAN
Executive Director

KIM ERNDT-PITCHER
Habitat and Agriculture Programs Specialist

CATIE GREGG
Agricultural Programs Specialist

RYAN GROSSO
Water Resources Associate

ROBERT HIRSCHFELD
Water Policy Specialist

KIM KNOWLES
Attorney and Policy Specialist

WHY I GIVE

In the past year, I had grown depressed at the worsening state of the environment and how little our government is acting to protect our natural resources.

I made the decision that I wanted to get involved with a local organization that was actively addressing environmental issues in Illinois.



Scott Baseler

At this time, coincidentally, I was seeing news stories about Prairie Rivers Network's involvement in coal ash regulations and their fight to protect our waterways.

The idea came to me that I could be of some small service by participating in a fundraiser. I plan to run in the Illinois Marathon (the 5k, maybe the 10K if I can) to raise money and awareness for PRN. As I train to do that, I wanted to use my birthday as a means to promote the work of PRN while raising money and committing myself to the run. (Because when you tell your friends and family you're doing it, you can't back down.)

I look forward to working with PRN and hope to be more involved in the future.

*Thank you, Scott Baseler,
for supporting PRN with your
Facebook Fundraiser
celebrating your
birthday.*

JEFF KOHMSTEDT
Communications and Outreach Coordinator

VICKIE NUDELMAN
Operations Manager

AMANDA PANKAU
Energy Campaign Coordinator

ANDREW REHN
Water Resources Engineer

SARAH SCOTT
Membership Development Assistant

Protect Water

Illinois' Last Coal Mine

While the COVID-19 pandemic and its response has turned everyone's lives upside down, farmers and other community members in East-Central Illinois are still grappling with their fight against the Bulldog Mine. The proposed mine, if constructed, would almost certainly be Illinois' last new coal mine. The world is moving on from coal, looking to cleaner energy sources to protect our planet while powering the future. Yet last year, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources put their stamp of approval on the mining permit for the Bulldog Mine.

It started a decade ago, when Sunrise Coal submitted an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) Office of Mines and Minerals for a new underground coal mine in Vermilion County that would be called the Bulldog Mine. Local and regional community members and farmers joined together to form Stand Up To Coal, a 100% grassroots and volunteer group working to protect prime Illinois farmland and the Salt Fork River. Stand Up To Coal, Prairie Rivers Network, and other advocates have been fighting the proposed Bulldog Mine ever since. Unfortunately, in April 2019, the IDNR finally granted the Coal Mine Permit, but Stand Up to Coal is challenging the permit through an Administrative Review to see if it meets the letter of the law.



There are many concerns about long-term harmful impacts coal mining

can have on communities. These include groundwater and well contamination, air pollution from dirty coal dust, road damage from heavy trucks, and contamination of neighboring farmland from leaking above-ground slurry impoundments long after mining has ceased. The Salt Fork of the Vermilion River will bear the burden of the discharges from this mine. We have seen these impacts in other mining communities across Illinois.

The Administrative Review of the mining permit is a quasi-judicial process where community members stand up as petitioners to challenge the mining permit to see if it follows the law. The process requires legal counsel and technical experts to be successful. Many of the local residents who would be impacted by the mine, and Stand Up To Coal itself, are petitioners. Most recently, the mine's lawyers have filed to dismiss nearly all of the petitioners, including Stand Up To Coal, from participating in the review.

To meet projected climate targets, we need to be rapidly transitioning away from coal, not opening a new coal mine. PRN believes in actively transitioning away from coal while supporting communities and workers in that transition. That is why we have supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which has a plan to help coal mine and coal power plant communities. Now is not the time for a new coal mine, but instead a just transition to a clean energy future. //

**Consider signing our petition to
Stop Illinois' Last New Coal Mine
prairierivers.org/StopBulldog**



Andrew provides technical expertise in support of Prairie River Network's coal pollution programs.



Heal Land

Tackling Climate Change with Soil

We focus a lot on how regenerative agricultural practices can protect our soil, keeping it in the field and out of our water. This can be a great win-win situation as practices that protect our water can also make a farm more resilient to severe weather. This is particularly important as we begin to see both more intense rainstorms in the spring and fall, and more dry periods in the summer due to climate change.

Over the next 30 years, these weather changes are expected to reduce crop yields in the Midwest back to the productivity levels seen in the 1980s. However, improved soil health and water quality are not the only benefits of managing our lands regeneratively. One of the main ways to improve soil health is to increase the Soil Organic Matter, or carbon, in the soil. The same practices that will help farmers be more resilient to climate change can also be climate mitigation tools.

You can learn more about how practices such as planting cover crops, reducing tillage, and increasing diversity improve soil health at: prairierivers.org/uncategorized/2019/04/what-is-healthy-soil/.

Agriculture has largely been seen as a major contributor of greenhouse gases with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimating that agriculture is responsible for one third of our emissions. Since we first plowed up the



prairie in Illinois, we have lost roughly half of the carbon in our soils. But this

does not have to be the end of the story. Some farmers are starting to see their potential to be a big part of the solution. Conservation farmer, Derek Martin said, “We could solve the carbon problem in the world with what we’re doing. [But] it’s going to be hard to convince the masses.” See prairierivers.org/uncategorized/2019/08/the-martin-farm/ to learn more about how the Martins are benefiting from conservation practices on their farm.



Reducing emissions will not be enough to reverse climate change. We already have too much carbon in our atmosphere and are experiencing the effects of climate change now. Reducing our emissions will help things not get worse, but we need more. We need to remove carbon that is already in the atmosphere. After the ocean, our soils are the largest carbon sink available. Even after all of our losses, our soils still hold more carbon

than the atmosphere and biosphere combined. And while increased carbon in our oceans is causing harm by lowering the water’s pH, carbon in the soil makes our soils function better, holding more water and nutrients, and reducing flooding.

As we see our state move forward with its goal of transitioning to a clean energy economy by 2050, we remind legislators of the important role agriculture can play in our solution. This brings us to a triple win that helps farmers, protects water, and helps us adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our soils can do amazing things. When we take care of them, they take care of us in return. //

Catie Gregg coordinates our campaigns to expand the adoption of conservation cropping systems in Illinois.



2019 PRN Members & Supporters

We are so grateful to our generous network of members. Thank you!

Legacy Society

Nadja and Carl Altstetter
Susan Barry and Chris Benda
Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden
Stephany and Elliot Brinkman
Reneé Potter and Rick Broyles
Glynnis Collins and Nick Brozovic
Irene and Clark Bullard
Ellyn and David Bullock
Laura Cain
Brenda and Nathan Cheney
Dianda and Dave Easter
Jean Flemma and John Epifanio
Kathleen Fahey
Jane Mohraz and A. Belden Fields
Jane and Eric Freyfogle
John Gilpin
Catherine Goodall-Heising
Nancy Goodall

A special thank you to our members who have donated to the PRN Endowment as an investment in Illinois' future.

Bruce Hannon Friends

Stephanie and Ralph Alexander
Sandy Bales
Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden
Irene and Clark Bullard
Ellyn and David Bullock
Glynnis Collins and Nick Brozovic
William J. Davey
Jean Flemma and John Epifanio
Susan Lannin and Albert Ettinger
Jane and Eric Freyfogle
John Gilpin
Lizie Goldwasser
Nancy Goodall
Barbara and Robin Hall
Patricia Hannon
Bruce Hannon



A heartfelt thank you to our members who have pledged an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to sustain the work of PRN.

Heather and Fran Harty
Susan and Lewis Hopkins
Janet Elaine Guthrie and Mark Jaeger
Ruth and Vaughn Jaenike
Ann Boisclair and Jeffrey Jens
Rosemary Laughlin
Anna Keck and Jason Lindsey
Annette McMichael
Jon McNussen
Kathryn Pilhofer
Carolyn and Bob Pohlkotte
Ann L. Smith
Becky Mead and Tim Stelzer
Glen Summers
Diane and Bob Szafoni
Kevin Tushaus
Ya-Shu Feng and William Van Hagey
Paul B. Van Ness
Sherry M. Weaver
Carol Goodall Wock

DiAnne and Terry Hatch
Susan and Lewis Hopkins
Sarah Redd and Bob Illyes
Dixie and Gary Jackson
Karen Carney and Rob Kanter
Annette and Charles Lansford
Chris and David Main
Diane and John Marlin
Robert J. McKim
Jon McNussen
Sharon and Jack Paxton
Beverly and Thomas Rauchfuss
Annice Moses and Michael Rosenthal
Ruth Wene and Tom Seals
Trent Shepard
David and Julie Sherwood
Sue and Tom Smith
Ya-Shu Feng and William Van Hagey
Sherry M. Weaver
Carol Goodall Wock

Business & Community

PLATINUM \$5,000+

Patagonia

GOLD \$1,000+

Blue Boutique
Common Ground Food Co-Op
Elliott Counseling Group
Fuzzy Math
Illinois-American Water - Champaign
National Wildlife Federation
Robeson Family Benefit Fund
Upclose Marketing and Printing

SILVER \$500+

Blue Moon Farm
Finest Home Inspection
First Mid Bank & Trust

BRONZE \$250+

Anderson Farms
Barham Benefit Group
Busey Bank
B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Institute of C-U
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance
Marco Technical Documentation
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
SharePower Responsible Investing

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Basil Harvest
BorgWarner
Caterpillar Foundation
CDC Paper & Janitor Supply
Champaign County Audubon Society
Champaign Outdoors / Rugged Outdoors
Color & Grain
Erich Adickes Photography
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana Green Team
Laborers Local Union #393
Mulberries Farm & Orchard
Prairie Sky Group ADF
Upper Embarras River Drainage District
Women's Dialogue Group

Foundations & Grantors

Center for Rural Affairs via Mississippi River Network
Delta Institute via Kinship Foundation
Elevate Energy/Solar for All
Energy Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
Illinois Environmental Council
Just Transition Fund via Rockefeller Family Fund
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
NC-SARE
Patagonia through Champaign Outdoors
People's Climate Movement
ReAmp
Walton Family Foundation

Other

AmazonSmile, Benevity, EarthShare, Schnucks Escript

Thank You for Making a Difference

Headwaters Circle

Members

\$5,000 and above



Irene and Clark Bullard
William J. Davey
Brenda and Wayland Eheart
Anne Ehrlich
Jane and Eric Freyfogle

Nancy Goodall
Chris and David Main
Jon McNussen
Julie and David Sherwood

River Champion Members

\$2,500 – \$4,999



Sandra and George Batzli
Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden
DiAnne and Terry Hatch
Beverly and Thomas Rauchfuss

Annice Moses and Michael Rosenthal
Carolyn Casady-Trimble and Ralph Trimble
Ya-Shu Feng and William Van Hagey
Sherry M. Weaver

River Protector Members

\$1,000 – \$2,499



Stephanie Alexander
Sandy Bales
Maggie Bruns
Ellyn and David Bullock
Glynnis Collins and Nick Brozovic
Jean Flemma and John Epifanio
Karen and Michael Folk
Kathy Shannon and Matt Frank
John Gilpin
Lizie Goldwasser
Charlotte Green
Barbara and Robin Hall
Patricia Hannon
Bruce Hannon
Ann Graffagna and Don Hanrahan

Rita and Ralph Henneman
Susan and Lewis Hopkins
Sarah Redd and Bob Illyes
Cathy and Roger Inman
Dixie and Gary Jackson
Ann Boisclair and Jeffrey Jens,
in memory of Michael Scully
Karen and Patrick Kane
Karen Carney and Rob Kanter
Linda and Grear Kimmel
Paul Kwiat
Annette H. and Charles L. Lansford
Cloydia and Rick Larimore
Rosemary Laughlin
Tyler Lobdell

Robert J. McKim
Sharon and Jack Paxton
Mare and Jim Payne
Laurel and John Prussing
Anne Robin
Ruth Wene and Tom Seals
Trent Shepard
Sue and Tom Smith
Kristin Solberg and David Seyler
Brian Sundberg
Carol and David Thomas
Matt Turino
Terri Nally and Ric Weibl
Carol Goodall Wock
Dirk Mol and Jerry Wray

River Steward Members

\$500 – \$999



Karen and Brian Anderson
Mary Blackmore
Leslie Shad and Joseph Brennan
Charlotte Bryan
R. Edward DeWalt
Carol Emmerling-DiNovo and Frank DiNovo
Susan Lannin and Albert Ettinger
J. Bryant Evans
Robert Fiedler
Shanelle and Jason Herman
J.G. Houston,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Susan Post and Michael Jeffords
Penny Agallianos and Eric Johnson

Nancy Parker and Jim Kuldinski
Ellen Jacobsen-Isserman and Max Kummerow
Warren G. Lavey Family
Jean and Dennis Lawyer
Benjamin Lumpkin
Kate McDowell
Madeline B. Moore
Jan Predmore and Aart Olsen
Kim Kramer and Melissa Orlie
Jyoti J. Patel and Janak H. Patel
Irina and Michael D. Podolsky
Kim Curtis and John Randolph
The Ripley Family

Debbie and Steve Rugg
Daniel Russo
Candy and John Scott
Mary Severinghaus
Kim Smith and David Skadden
Joyce Blumenshine and David Trachtenberg
Terry Trobec
Lucy Whalley and Dennis Wandell
Nancy E. Westcott
Rachel Whitaker and Stephen Wald
Jane and David C. White
Katie Zimmerman

A special thank you to our Fundraising Team that raised \$8,500+ at the Illinois Marthon in 2019: Therese Brink, Nancy Drook, Don Greeley, Elizabeth Greeley, Susan Houseworth, Cathy Inman, Amy Irl, Dixie Jackson, Gary Jackson, Karen Kane, Rob Kanter, Megan McDevitt, Cheryl Nimz, Nudelman Family, Dave Sherwood, Case Sprenkle, Carol Thomas.

River Guardian Members

\$250 – \$499



Roberta Allen
 Patti Anderson
 Jennifer and Ian Ayres
 Dolores and Richard Bishop
 Bob and Sue Boucek
 Audrey and Ted Brown
 Debbie and Matt Campbell
 Bess Celio
 John Chick
 Denise Church
 Janet Gates Conover and Joe Conover,
in honor of Bruce and Patricia Hannon
 Lori Raetzman and Charles Davies
 Luan and Don Davis,
in memory of Wayne Tipsword
 David Delaney
 Lynn Howard Ehrle
 Thomas England
 Kathleen Fahey
 Ann Bergeron and Kevin Fahey
 Laurie and David Farrell
 Bob Fisher
 Bettina and George Francis
 Carol Livingstone and Daniel Grayson
 Liz and Don Greeley
 Jim Hart
 Ruth and Vaughn Jaenike
 David Johnson
 Mardell O'Brien and Larry C. Johnson
 Joan M. Volkmann and John T. Jones
 Wenche Nonaas and Bruce Karmazin
 Viktoria Ford and Stephen Kaufman
 Susan and Ron Kiddoo
 Lorrie Pearson and Jeff Kohmstedt
 Sharon Irish and Reed Larson
 Grace and Randy Madding
 Anne McKusick
 Rosi and Bob McLeese
 Candace and Steve McMaster
 Sallie and Norman Miller
 Beth Morgan
 Rudolf Mortimer
 Jane and Walter Myers
 Cheryl K. Nimz
 Janise and Christopher Phillips
 Barbara Donahue and Rich Rehn
 Pam and Lan Richart
 Christie Roszkowski
 Cindy Shepherd
 Vicki Rowe and Cliff Shipley
 Joyce and Elliott Slutzky
 Lee and Philip Solter
 Ruth and Rip Sparks
 Holly and Joel Spencer
 Elaine and Case Sprenkle
 Becky Mead and Tim Stelzer
 Richard Stout
 William C. Sullivan
 Casey Sutherland and Linda Coleman
 Annalisa and Paul Switzer
 Kristine Light and Ed Taylor
 Kathleen and Dave Thornton
 James Tuggle
 Michael Ullmann
 Sandra and Bill Volk
 Cynthia Skrukud and Thomas Von Geldern
 Lynn and Ira Wachtel
 Tina Gunsalus and Michael Walker
 Debbie Williams
 Sally Foote and Tom Wold

River Defender Members

\$100-\$249



Mayumi and Nathan Aaberg
 Paula and Antonio Acevedo
 Kay and Bill Ahaus
 Joyree and Brad Allen
 Marianne Alleyne
 Connie and David Almy
 Jorie and Jason Aloisio,
*in memory of George Douglas
 Clementz of Thunder Valley Farms*
 Walter Alspaugh
 Nadja and Carl Altstetter
 Elaine Nekritz and John Amdor
 Karen and David Andsager
 Lee Erwin and Keith Appler
 Charlotte and Walter Arnstein
 Larry Ault
 Cathy and Robert Baird
 Rick Balsbaugh
 Ellen Baranowski
 Ethel Barnett
 Ann and Hal Barnhart
 Nina and Carl Barron
 Katherine Baylis
 Sandra and Peter Beak
 Belinda and John Beccue
 Dwain Berggren
 Astrid and Earl Berkson
 Lori and Craig Birkey
 Marie Bohl
 Julie Bosland
 Susan and Mark Bowman
 Susan Braxton
 Jacquelyn and Philip Brewer
 Donna and Frank Brinkman
 Kathleen Brinkmann
 Laurie Matheson and William Brooks
 René Potter and Rick Broyles
 Mary Kay Bruns
 Marcia Bullard
 Cheryl and Don Bullock
 Joyce and Rabel Burdge
 Richard Cahill
 Laura Cain
 Kristin and Michael Camp
 Ann and Roy Campbell
 Capobianco Family
 Judi and Brian Carney
 Mary Cattell
 Judi Chase
 Beth Chato
 Barbara and Bill Childers
 Jane Cogie
 Thelma Collins
 Doug Coomer
 Verena Höfig and Leo Covis
 Nancy and Stephen Cox
 Gary Cozette,
in honor of Pam and Lan Richart
 Jongin and Robert Craggs
 Jane and Don Creason
 Sandy and Larry Creekmur
 Laura K. and Jack W. Dare
 Liz Cardman and Paul Debevec
 Paula and Dan Deneen
 Kirsten Dennison
 Chris Dietrich
 Victoria Pifalo and Kieran Donaghy
 Margaret Miller and Scott Dossett
 Maggie Dougherty-Roberts
 Nancy Drook
 John Dunkelberger,
in honor of Elliot Brinkman
 Dianda and Dave Easter
 Mary and Doug Eppich
 Joan Root Ericksen and Bob Ericksen
 Theresa and Bob Feller
 Marietta and Dave Fernandes
 Barbara and Greg Foster
 Rachel Fowler
 Debbie and Chuck Frank
 Beverly A. Friese
 Rosemary Gentry
 Jeff Ginger
 Paul Ginger
 Deanna Glosser
 Karen and Bob Goodwell
 Jennifer Goran
 Myra and George Gordon
 Lisa and Philip Graff
 Helen Grandone
 Sue and Kevin Green
 Carol Gregg
 Ryan Griffiths
 Judy Miller and Mike Gottlieb
 Jane and Mark Grosso
 Andrew Gulya
 Rudy Habben
 Judy and Keith Hackley
 Susan and Mike Haney
 Jody Hanger and Chris Hannauer
 Sandra and James Hannum
 Kathy and Richard Harden
 Sue and Dick Harris
 Heather and Fran Harty
 Carol and Scott Hays
 Leslie Heath
 Susan and Karl Helmink
 Peggy Holmes and James Hicks
 Marie Gambach and Joe Hooker
 Jacob Hoots
 Susan Houseworth
 Bonnie Hudson
 Steve Hurst
 Noel Jackson
 William R. Jacober
 Abra Jacobs
 Janet Elaine Guthrie and Mark Jaeger
 Eric Jason
 Pat and Harold Jensen,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
 David Joens
 Catherine Schmidt-Jones and Douglas Jones
 Gwen A. Jones
 Patty Jones
 Holly Jordan
 Rhonda Jurinak
 Alicia Henry and Wayne Karplus
 Linda and Marty Kemper
 Beverly and George H. Kieffer
 Dennis Killian
 Janice Kimpel
 Peggy Patten and Todd Kinney
 Therese and Randall Kobel
 Katrina and Jim Kotowski
 Jennifer Hines and Rob Krumm
 Donald R. Ladzinski
 Linda and Ryan Larsen
 Emily and Richard Laugesen
 Kihwal Lee
 Karen Medina and Stuart Levy
 Dan Lewart
 Derek Liebert
 Germaine Light
 Jody and Paul Littleton
 Cynthia and Michael Loui
 Mona and Vern Maas
 Laura Madden
 Ann and David Marriott
 Jessi and Levi Marriott
 Sally McConkey
 Barbara and Steve McKasson
 Kevin McKee

And a sincere thank you to our volunteers and interns: Erick Adickes, Beth Beauchamp, Ann Burger, Deanna Glosser, Nancy Goodall, Mary Grapperhaus, Gary Hake, Shelley Harper, Jamie Hodges, Maureen Holtz, Michael Holtz, Cathy Inman, Dixie Jackson, Mary Jadernak, Karen Kane, Rob Kanter, Marty Kemper, Mike Krasowski, Randy Madding, Grace Madding, David Main, Chris Main, Dennis Malawy, Steve Modert, Lou Nelms, Lennie Pitcher, Bob Platt, Steve Platt, Jill Rendelman, Joy Schmoll, Glen Schuetz, Suzanne Smith, Seth Swoboda, Tom Swoboda, Carol Thomas, Carolyn Trimble.

Sally Parry and Robert McLaughlin
David McNussen
Annie McManus and Seth Mendelowitz
Marcia and Ron Mercer
Theresa and Bruce Michelson
JoAnn Monge
Nancy and David Morse
Carolyn Mullally
Nancy and Dave Munson
Trish and Lou Nelms
Deb Newell
Sandy Lu and Fred Newport
Cindy and John A. Norris
Martin Nudelman
Karen Ennen and David O'Brien
Diane and Tom O'Rourke
Jean Paley
Sara Panko,
in memory of Gary Panko
Helen M. Parker
Bob Pearse
Janet and David Peshkin
Jean and David Peters
Ann and Joseph Petry
Anne Phillips
Sigrid and Alan Pilgrim
Barbara Jones and Joel Plutchak
Linda Wessels and Tim Prescott
Lee and Bradley Price
Janine Prorok
Karen and Larry Pruiett
Trish Quintenz
Jill and James Quisenberry
Beth Rempe
Patty Riggins
Marlyn Rinehart
Verlyn and Paul Rosenberger
Susan Rouse
Marie and Ed Roy
Darby Rude
Jeffrey Sanders
Beth and Tod Satterthwaite
Genevieve Long and Keith Schinkoeth
Mark Schmidt
Jason Scott
Laura Severson
Anne and David Sharpe
Valerie Sivicek
Priscilla Skalac
Kimberly Slack and Marc Zollinger,
in honor of Beverly Hertle
Mary J. Sleeth
Jessica and Jamar Smith
Ann L. Smith
James O. Smith
Lloyd Smith
Audrey Ishii and Charlie Smyth
Lois Kain and Jon Solomon
Nancy Staggs
Carol and Topper Steinman
Elizabeth Stern
William Stewart
Carrie Storrs
Lucinda Strehlow
Sheila Sullivan
Glen Summers
Cynthia Swanson
Iris and Burt Swanson
Kathy and Jonathan Sweedler
Cynthia and Clyde Sweet
Bonnie and Bob Switzer

Diane and Bob Szafoni
Mary Kay Solecki and John Taft
Christopher Taylor
David Tewksbury
Amy McArthur and William Theisen
Traci Quigg Thomas
Michael Tilley
Christine and Jon Todd
Terry Tonielli
Marguerite Torrey
Kevin Tushaus
Patricia VerStrat
John Viebach
Roberta Volkmann
Carl von Ende
Nancy Voss
Shirley Walker
Christy and Dan Walsh
Paula Enstrom and Joe Walsh
Charlotte Westcott
Colleen and William White
Yvette and Herb Whiteley
Jo McLain and Frank M. Wiesenmeyer
Ellen and David Willcox
Williams-Kim Family
Karen and Alex Winter-Nelson
Gretka Wolfe
Vicky and Scott Woolridge

Members

\$50 - \$99



Mary Jo Adams
Amy Allen
Charlene Anchor
Michael Ander
Randee Ardisana-Cleveland
Nate Atkinson
Kurt Austin
Bruce Barkley
Frank Beal
Dorothy Bell
Alice Berkson
Gary Bettega
Laurel Toussaint and Tom Bik
Pam Bowsher
Alex Brauman
Christine Breen
The Bretl Family
Stephany and Elliot Brinkman
John Britt
William Bromer
Kazuko Suzuki and Raymon Brown
Matthew Bryant
Feng Dong and Yong Cao
Gretchen Knapp and Angelo Capparella
Jennifer Carroll
David Ceperley
Jessie Norris and Barry Chapman
Ann Charland,
in memory of Robert Bomke
Mary and Reid Coffield
Heather Coit
B.M. Colleran and D.A. Parisian-Colleran
Georgeann Hartzog and Dennis Connolly
Jessica Conroy
Abdi Maya and Julian Crozier,
in honor of Terry Crozier
Todd Cruikshank
Linda Culton
Cathy and Jeff Cunningham
Ramona Curry
Dolores Das
Kevin Daugherty
Mercy and Bill Davison

Karen Decker
Mary Ellen and Jim DeClue
Sharon Derence
Brenda and Ron Dilts
Bryan Duff
Clara Bosak-Schroeder and Joe Duncker,
in honor of their wedding
Bryan Dunne
Barbara Stanger and Duane Dust
Joyce Eisold
Mindy and Jamie Ellis
Barbara and Terry England,
in memory of Robert "Bob" Bales
Tammy Soper and Eric Erl
Ruth Ann and Charles Evans
Christine Favilla
Anna Fedders
Cherie and Bob Foster
Kim and Cynthia Fraser
Bridget and Kevin Frerichs
Barb Fuller
Barb Geissler,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Linda and Kyle Gerlach,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Victoria Christensen and Gary Gladding,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Robin and Bruce Goettel
Sarah and Jim Graham
Angela Gruendl
Barbara and Homer Gurtler
Jill and John Gusmano
Cynthia and Robert Guthrie
Kathy Hadley
Shawn Hale
Jill and Bob Hamann
John Hamby
Kyle Hankey
Frances and Mitchell Harris
Sharon L. Hayes
Don and Babette Hiles
Jennifer Hill
Kay Hodson
Natalie Holden
Kaylie Honkala
Fran and Gerald Hoots
Kristian D. Hopkins
Rachel Rasmussen and Robert Hudson
Bruce Hutchings
Andrea Jackson
Naomi and Eric Jakobsson
Elisabeth Jenicek
Claire Johnson
Libby Johnston
Judith M. Joy
Barbara and Terry Judd
Al Kagan
Margaret Kane
Melody and Marty Kane
Lori Sommer and John Kanter
Rebecca Kasten
Jo and Doug Kibbee
Eva Pomerantz and Duane Kimme
Andrea R. Klein
Rebecca A. Klein
Christopher Knight
Joyce and Jim Knoblauch
Karen Koenig
Antje and Ed Kolodziej
Chris Korose
Karla M. Kraeszig
Susan and Curtis Krock
Bob Kucera
Margaret Kutsunis
Ricky Lanham
Ken Larimore
Dave Larsen
Debbie Albano and Pete Leki
Greg Leston
Melanie Loots
Rhys Louis,
in honor of Amy Louis
Rebecca Luke
Andrea Stader and John Magney
Christopher Malin
Manley Mallard
Rebecca McBride
Susan and William McLane

Annette McMichael
Tara Beveroth and Jason Meier
Anja Metz
George Miley
Joanne Miller
Carla Caceres and Craig Milling
Judy Mongold
Courtney Moravek
Raymond Mucha
Cara Finnegan and John Murphy
Erica Navar
Ann Nelson
Connie Nelson
Luke Nelson
Marcia and Randall Nelson
Sarah and Robert Nemeth
Anna and Stephen Nesbitt
Carol Jo Morgan and Joe Niernberger
Raymond Norton
David Novak
Vickie and Brian Nudelman
Howard Oneil
Pamela Osborne
Jim Parr
Sheila Pelichoff
Frances Peshkin
Sarka Petrickova
Jen and Wayne Politsch
Laurel and Scott Preece
Sarah Rae
Carolyn Raffensperger
Japhia Jayasingh-Ramakumar and Dave Ramkumar,
in honor of the Nugent family
Barb and Dale Rascher
Rob Ratz
Debbie Redenius
Stephen Reid
Paul Ricker
Marise Robbins-Forbes and Guy Forbes
Ann and Bob Romadka
Gil Rone
Umeeta Sadarangani and Marilyn Ryan
Kent Salazar
John Sanford
Tracy Satterthwaite
Connie and Michael Schmidt
Kathleen and Mark Schoeffmann
Meredith Schroeder
Joan and Peter Schuetz
Dennis M. Schwank
Kathleen Zurkowski and James Simeone
Marianne Abbey-Smith and Campbell Smith
Cecily Smith
Greg Smith
Meredith Smith,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Lisa and Keith Snyder
Catherine M. Stanford
James Stephens
Beverly Stevens
Sally Stillwell
Jamie and Gary Storm,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Stan Summers
Zachary Sutton
Harriet P. Swager
Marcia and Robert Sychra
Sara Sychra
Nancy and John Taylor
Ron Thompson
Marilee Tilly
Kasey Umland
Paul B. Van Ness
Wayne L. Wagner, Sr.
Shirley Walker
Diane and James Wardrop
Sharon and Doug Welch
Barbara Welsch and Rick Walsh
David Wilcoxon
Marilyn and Ed Willis
Phoebe Wintz
Tony Wong
Donald Wuebbles
Mary Ellen Wuellner
Mary Clevenger and Chuck Ziegler,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Glenn Zipp

We also thank the 200+ members that donated under \$50, but are not listed here. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our supporter recognition. We apologize for any errors and urge you to notify us of any corrections.

THANK YOU

Inspire Change

Herbicide Injury Threaten Farms

We have been thinking a lot about food security and the importance of farmers who produce our food. Unfortunately, farmers who seek to grow in an ecologically sound and sensitive manner face many obstacles. Policy, law, and research funding often favor chemically-intensive industrial agriculture, not regenerative farming. This reality has been thrown into stark relief in recent years with the flood of complaints about off-target injuries caused by highly volatile herbicides such as dicamba and 2, 4-D.

Organic farmers, orchards, vegetable farms, and vineyards are seeing injuries such as curled, cupped, stunted, and deformed leaves and plants. Farmers can withstand only so much injury before the integrity of their crops and the health of their plants suffer. These herbicide injuries are a serious threat to many multi-generational family farms.

Record Number of Complaints

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), official landowner and grower complaints of damage to crops and plants caused by the herbicide dicamba surpassed an astonishing 700 in Illinois last year, with many more injuries left unreported and undocumented. It is the same situation in many other states: record number of complaints and widespread under-reporting of injuries.

“We’re just running ourselves ragged, just trying to get out there and collect the evidence,” says Dave Scott, who is in charge of Indiana’s pesticide investigations.¹ Nevertheless, state officials continue to offer inadequate protective measures, apparently more concerned with protecting chemical companies than protecting private property rights, specialty growers, and ecosystem health.

A recent lawsuit, however, has provided some hope for those harmed by drifting dicamba. A jury found Monsanto and Bayer liable for damages to a Missouri peach farmer for years of crop losses. The farmer was awarded \$15 million for losses

of 30,000 trees. Bayer/Monsanto was also hit with \$250 million in punitive damages stemming from their bad actions in marketing the product.

Monsanto started selling its dicamba-tolerant seeds before the US EPA approved the herbicides for the market. The suit alleged that Monsanto knew that dicamba drift would damage crops and force neighboring farms to buy and plant Monsanto’s dicamba-resistant seeds so their crops would not be impacted by drifting herbicide.

“This verdict is just the tip of the iceberg — there is a long queue of farmers who have been impacted by dicamba drift and deserve their day in court,” said Linda Wells, Pesticide Action Network organizing director. “The internal Monsanto (now Bayer) documents uncovered in this case show that the company released a highly destructive and intentionally untested product onto the market, and used its influence to cheat the regulatory system.”²

We are about to face yet another year of widespread use of dicamba and other highly volatile herbicides. However, the license for dicamba is up for renewal this year, and we are poised to fight it. Because our farms and food are vital to the health of our communities. But it is not just crops that are damaged.

Private Lands Injured Too

In recent years, we have received increased reports of plant and tree injury on both public and private lands, and these injuries are symptomatic of herbicide exposure. The big problem is that until recently no one has been monitoring what happens when these herbicides move beyond the farm field and into parks, forests, and rural communities. With the help of highly talented and dedicated PRN members, such as retired IDNR biologist Martin Kemper, we have been able to document symptoms of herbicide damage to trees and other non-target plants that provide critical resources for wildlife.

Kemper has been working with us and other members to develop a report based on two years’ worth of data from our Tree and Plant Health Monitoring Program. The report will



Kim Erndt-Pitcher provides technical and organizing expertise for pollinator habitat and regenerative agriculture programs downstate.

¹ <https://n.pr/2JGvW9W>

² <https://bit.ly/3dVEkAi>

Most Endangered River



In April of 2019, American Rivers designated the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) as the third most endangered river in the United States. The designation came as a result of miles of levees being illegally raised and cutting off the Mississippi River from its floodplain. Ultimately, these actions

increased flood risk for vulnerable communities up and down the river and severely degraded wildlife habitat.

This year, American Rivers has listed the UMR as #1 on America's Most Endangered Rivers® list. Bad actors remain on the banks of the river, continuing to alter their levees without the proper approval and pushing flood waters on unsuspecting and unprepared communities.

But each issue along the Mighty Mississippi exacerbates another. The growing threat of climate change and extreme precipitation events make an already-restricted river overflow with water. Years of development have fundamentally altered the hydrology of the UMR, severing the river's ties with acres upon acres of floodplain habitat. The issues build on one another, but this designation and these issues, both old and new, create a new opportunity.

This is a chance to develop a "Master Plan" for the UMR. The current system is "every person for themselves," and there are very few instances where we have a holistic understanding of how one's actions affect another. We can change that. The UMR is in dire need of a plan that creates common goals and recommendations for everyone. Only then can we begin to heal the river system and mitigate the risks of flooding and the effects of climate change.

Visit our website to make this call to action! //



ILLINOIS STATE

The State of Illinois is undertaking a process to update the Illinois State Water Plan (ISWP). The purpose of the plan is to provide policy and program guidance in water resources management. Decisions on agency action, funding, and legislation all flow from the plan, so it is a very important document. Illinois has not fully updated its state water plan since 1984, and much has changed in the intervening years.

It's Time For An Update

Population, infrastructure, new threats to water quality and quantity. It is long past time that Illinois began thinking about how we protect and manage our precious water resources. Ensuring that Illinois has abundant clean, affordable water is vital to our quality of life and economy.

The emergence of climate change as the defining issue of our future only underscores the need for serious, strategic planning about the state's water resources. Increased floods and droughts would put tremendous strain on our food and water systems. We need to be planning NOW.

The ISWP is a tremendous opportunity to shape our future and ensure we

Land from page 9

be released this spring. Our goal is to show that injuries are far more widespread than has been reported to IDOA and that we need to act now to protect our farms and ecosystems.

Your Help Needed

We need your help now more than ever. If you suspect damage to your trees, crops, pollinator habitat, etc., please document it. Visit our website at prairierivers.org/monitoring-tree-and-plant-health/ to learn how to file an injury complaint with IDOA as well as how to document suspected injuries through our monitoring database. You can use our online reporting

form from your smartphone or desktop computer, just fill out the form, upload your photos of injured plants, and submit. Every bit of information helps. //

Annual Dinner
Save the Date!
October 23, 2020

(pending covid-19 status)
Stay tuned for updates

WATER PLAN

are ready for the challenges it will present. Many of the issues that PRN has been working on for decades will be addressed, including water quality, climate change, and Lake Michigan, among ten others.

In addition to ensuring that each one of these priority issue areas reflects the values of PRN, we want this plan to be dynamic and responsive to changing public needs.

Process Interrupted

Initially the state planned public meetings over the spring and summer to allow for input, with a goal for publishing a final plan in late 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has indefinitely delayed the process. The silver lining here is that it will allow PRN and all of our partners to spend more time working on the plan to ensure that it is as strong and forward-looking as possible. //



Thank You, Eric!

Clark Bullard

After many years of faithful service and inspiring leadership, Eric Freyfogle has retired from the Prairie Rivers Network board of directors. He joined us at a time of transition, when we had only a staff of two, and he proceeded to guide us through two decades of institution building. He built our financial foundation by establishing our annual fundraising dinners, the Bruce Hannon Friends group of major donors, and our endowment.



Clark and Eric have served on the PRN Board of Directors together for many years!



Eric is a skilled musician and has performed at PRN events.

His world-renowned expertise in water law and wildlife law brought a big-picture perspective to strategic planning, and his financial expertise brought smart fiscal oversight to everyday operations. He served on various board committees, and at least one term as board chair. But most of all he will be fondly remembered by his fellow board members as the faithful secretary who wrote the best meeting minutes ever – more

than 20 years' worth, six of those as president – so we never forgot what we decided and why.

Eric is not going far, though. He is retiring to his Urbana home, not far from his Decatur roots. He will likely continue his scholarly writing about conservation ethics and the role of private property rights in nature. He continues to represent us on the National Wildlife Federation board of directors and remains engaged as a valued advisor to the staff and board of the organization he helped build. Good luck in your future endeavors, Eric! //

Clean Energy Jobs Act

On March 4th, Prairie Rivers Network was there with many of you and over 700 advocates at the Springfield Capitol to rally in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA, SB2132/HB3624)! CEJA sets Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050, creates a carbon free power sector by 2030, reduces the number of gas and diesel vehicles from the transportation sector, and creates jobs and economic opportunity.

CEJA is the only comprehensive bill in Springfield that addresses several urgent issues impacting our electricity rates,

communities, economy, and environment. It provides a fix to Trump's coal bailout in northern Illinois' PJM capacity market, and it expands funding to prevent a roadblock in developing renewable energy projects in Illinois. CEJA will provide support for communities and workers impacted by coal's rapid decline and most importantly, it will reduce carbon emissions and make Illinois a leader in fighting the climate crisis. //





1605 South State Street, Suite 1
Champaign, IL 61820
217-344-2371

prairierivers.org



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Champaign, IL
Permit No. 858

Become a Member or Renew Your Membership!

- \$25 Student Membership
- \$50 Basic Membership
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- Other_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (to receive Action Alerts): _____

Thank you for your tax deductible support!

Make checks payable to: Prairie Rivers Network, 1605 South State Street, Suite 1, Champaign, IL 61820

PRN Membership Levels

						
Headwaters Circle \$5,000	River Champions \$2,500-\$4,999	River Protectors \$1,000-\$2,499	River Stewards \$500-\$999	River Guardians \$250-\$499	River Defenders \$100-\$249	Members \$1-\$99

Tax Changes

CARES Act Provides Enhanced Tax Benefits for Your Gift to PRN

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act that was recently passed into law provides new charitable giving incentives for 2020:

- For those that take the standard deduction, you may now receive a \$300 above-the-line charitable deduction in addition to the standard deduction for donations made in 2020 (Section 2204 of Act).
- For those that itemize their deductions, the law lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for charitable giving for 2020. The Act permits a charitable contribution deduction for cash contributions of up to 100% of adjusted gross income rather than the cap of 60% (Section 2205 of Act).

Renew your membership!

