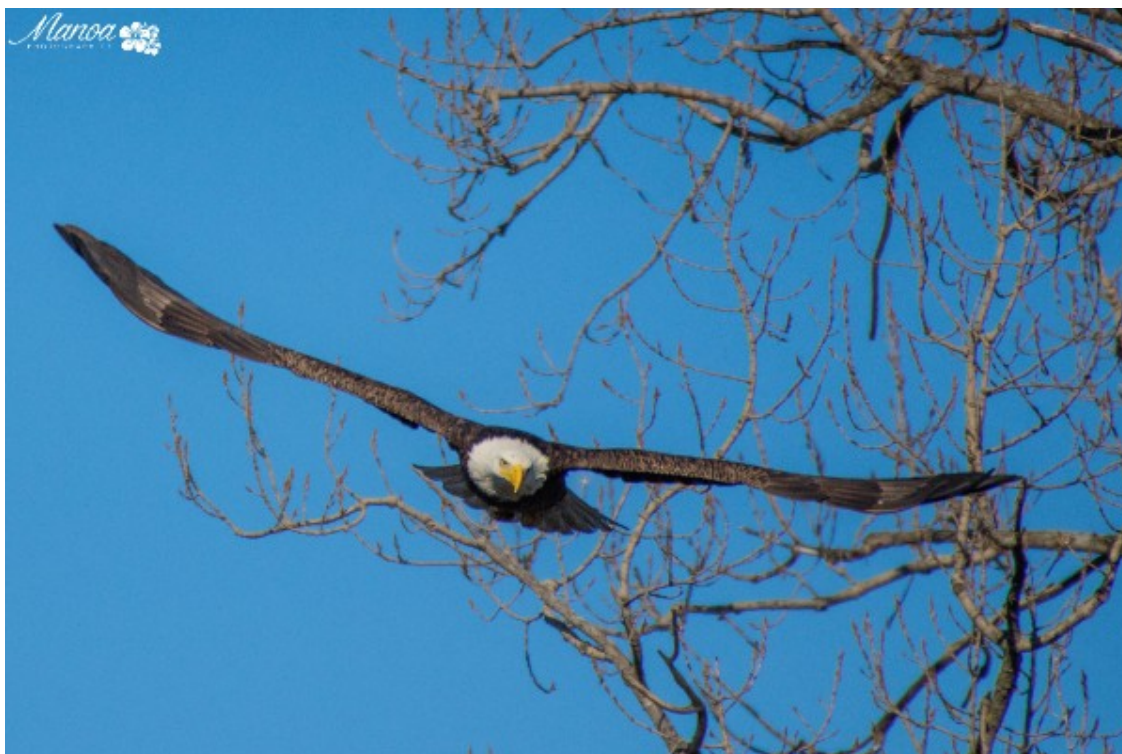




MARCH WATERSHED NEWS

"We keep on fixin' the Fox"

<<First Name>>



On New Year's Day, it was bright and sunny with cold temperatures, frozen river, and open water only at the dam. I drove into Elgin to look around Walton Island and I found an eagle in a tree on the west side of the river along the open space. I had beautiful viewing and took many photos of him hanging out in the tree.

Then he took flight and flew right towards me. It was thrilling. *Kyla Jacobsen, Elgin Water Director*



Friends of the Fox River is the only citizen based organization who's mission takes responsibility for the entire Fox River Watershed



Friends of the Fox River preserves, restores and protects the Fox River Watershed's resources by connecting people with nature through education, research, restoration and advocacy.

From our President, [Gary Swick](#)
[Watershed Watchdogs](#)
[Expand North & South](#)

Since the beginning of Friends of the Fox River (FOFR), students have played a leading role in water quality protection. These citizen scientists have voluntarily collected data from over 100 monitoring sites throughout the watershed.

In 1999, the [Fox River Monitoring Network](#)

[One Earth Film](#)
[Festival in Aurora](#)

Friends of the Fox River is proud to be joining Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREPP) and other local groups as sponsors of this year's One Earth Film Festival at Waubesa College on Monday, March 6th at 7 p.m. In its 6th year, the festival is the Midwest's premier environmental film festival, creating opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability and the power of human involvement.

was established through federal, state, and county funding. To date, FOFR has hosted over 30,000 students from southern Wisconsin downstream to Yorkville, for no charge.



In 2016 FOFR entered into an agreement with the City of Aurora to expand our educational services, and establish the Aurora "Watershed Watchdog" program. Currently, we are working with City of Crystal Lake in effort to maintain that well-established program.

These Watershed Watchdogs as citizen scientists are more than just data collectors. Their connection to their local stream and understanding of the impacts of human actions make them appropriate stewards. They are the protectors of water quality today and the decision makers of tomorrow. At Friends of the Fox River, we work on many fronts to protect the watershed's resources. It is the Watershed Watchdog program that we invest the heaviest in, as we know that it is effective and will have long lasting impacts.

This year's film is "Hometown Habitat Stories of Bringing Nature Home" featuring Doug Tallamy and directed by Catherine Zimmerman, who will be present for the screening.

Referendum Support

Friends of the Fox River's Board of Directors voted on Monday, February 6th to join the Conservation Foundation in support of the Kane County Forest Preserve District seeking a \$50 million referendum to purchase open space in the April 2017 election.

Save the Dates

Our Events - March 2017

[One Earth Film Fest in Aurora Mar. 6](#)

[St. Pat's Day Parade/Kilted 5K Mar. 11](#)

[Learn to Compost with Worms Mar. 12](#)

Our Clean ups

[April 22 with St. Rep. Anna Moeller](#)

[May 20 with City of Batavia](#)

[June 10 with City of Elgin Police Dept.](#)

Volunteer with Us

Join or Lead Clean ups

Invite your friends, hold your own

[Call to volunteer 815-356-6605](#)

[St. Pat's Day Kilted 5K & Parade -](#)

need parking & line-up assistants & grandstand take down

2016 Photo Contest Winners

The Fox River offers some of the most beautiful natural environments in Northern Illinois. Those of us who live near its waters often find our way to its banks to find solace, refreshment, peace, enjoyment. It forms a long, continuous thread that ties

together the communities along its length and is at once a point of orientation, a path, a barrier and a guide. It is home to many dozens of fish and bird species, including egrets, red-tail hawks, and bald eagles to just name a few.

As a way of sharing the beauty of the Fox River, we at Friends of the Fox River are excited to announce the winners of our 2016 Photo Contest. The theme question of the contest was ***“What does the phrase ‘connecting people with nature’ mean to you?”***



Our Grand Prize winner is Phillip Prior, whose photo of a “White Egret at the Batavia Dam” captures an unfazed egret, standing proud while rushing waters boil around him. See Phil's photo and description below.



Phil explains:

“The picture was taken with a Canon EOS digital SLR camera. I love walking and riding my bike along the Fox River and watching the different types of wildlife. The white egret in the photo seemed to be posing at the Batavia dam. I took the picture towards the sun which darkened the background and caused the camera to quicken the shutter speed which caused the water to look “globby.” I have to admit that the picture turned out better than I thought it would and has become one of my favorite photos.”



Our Runner-Up Prize goes to Hope Shales, a young photographer-in-the-making. Her photo and description are below.



Hope notes:

"This photo was taken from the bridge across the Fox River at sunrise. I think it shows how the river and people are intertwined, through the water, the bridge across it, and our desire to settle by water, with the lights from the buildings reflected in it. I use my phone camera when I take pictures.

I take pictures because I like the way the sun looks on other objects and all the different perspectives you can have. The way you can make someone feel something, just by taking a picture, is intriguing to me."

This is our first time hosting a photo contest and we're thrilled with the results! We look forward to making this at least an annual event and getting the word out to many more people throughout the watershed in order to capture many more examples of the wonders of the Fox River! Photo entries will be featured in our 2018 Friends of the Fox River Calendar. We will announce the start of the 2017 Photo Contest in the next couple of months. Stay tuned!

*** Note: Friends of the Fox River 2017 Calendars feature the winning photos and are still available for purchase! Please call (815) 356-6605 or email through the [website](#) for more info.

Our mission:

**To preserve, restore and protect the Fox River Watershed's resources
by connecting people with nature through
education, research, restoration and advocacy.**

Friends of the Fox River Kick Off 2017 Membership Drive!

Friends of the Fox River's mission is to create a watershed of stewards. But all our work depends on your membership and support.

Friends of the Fox River's Board of Directors recently identified membership development as a major goal for 2017. So we're kicking off a year long Membership Drive to broaden our geographic focus, expand our volunteer and funding base, and to enhance our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission.

You're Invited!

We're beginning this effort by inviting our members and volunteers to a **MEMBERS ONLY Membership Appreciation Party** during the Schweitzer Environmental Center's Holiday Nature Arts & Crafts Show next Sunday,

Join or Renew Your Membership Now!

Friends of the Fox River's memberships have previously run for a year from the date a member joined.

Now memberships will expire on December 31st and run on a calendar year beginning on January 1st. If you joined this year at the August Fundraiser or after, your membership will run for a full year. But we encourage everyone to renew their membership now to get on the simpler calendar year cycle.

What does your support do for the Fox River?

Your membership helps us preserve, protect and restore the Fox River. How does your support do that? By funding our efforts to create a watershed of stewards.

We're creating a watershed of stewards

December 11, from noon to 4pm.

Join the Board members and staff of Friends of the Fox River in our office upstairs for some warm drinks and baked goodies. Get to know the leadership of our organization and let us hear from you about how we're doing, what you'd like us to do and what your vision for the Fox River is.

Announcing Friends of the Fox River's 2017 Calendar!

Now that we've all digested the turkey and it is the full on gift buying season, Friends of the Fox River has the perfect gift for EVERYONE on your list.

We've produced a high quality full color 2017 Calendar featuring 13 images of the Fox River in all it's seasonal beauty. But we've only produced 50 calendars for this first-time Holiday season fundraising effort. Calendars are \$25 each. That works out to only \$2.08 per month or less than the price of a good cup of coffee!

Keep track of what day it is throughout the year while you help us keep Fixin' the Fox. Order your 2017 Fox River Calendar email calendar@friendsofthefoxriver.org (be sure to include the number of calendars you'd like) or stop by the Schweitzer Environmental Center's [Holiday Nature Arts & Crafts Show](#) next Sunday, December 11, from noon to 4pm and pick up a great gift for yourself and everyone on your holiday gift list.

through our [Streams Education Program](#) that introduces students throughout the watershed to the life of their local streams.

Over the last 25 years our members and funders have supported Friends of the Fox River's educators in creating a national, if not world record by engaging more than 30,000 students in this experiential, environmental education program.

You support our [Fox River Monitoring Network](#) volunteers who quietly guard the Fox River by regularly sampling streams, and the river itself to spot pollution and other threats to the health of the river.

And your membership supports Friends of the Fox River's annual efforts to coordinate the work of hundreds of volunteers in a dozen Clean-Ups on and along the river.

The species that depend on the natural resources of the Fox River can't speak, can't vote, and can't influence the humans who make decisions that impact their lives. [You support our work](#) to make sure that housing, roads, parking lots and bridges are developed only where necessary and in an environmentally sensitive way.

Friends of the Fox River stands as one of the few advocates for the river, watershed and the species that depend on them in public hearings and government meetings. Your membership is a voice and a vote for the river.

All our work starts with your support for this important mission. Help us make the Fox River great again!

[Join or renew your membership now!](#)



See all the volunteer opportunities

Volunteer



Donate or renew your membership

Donate



Check out all our FOFR events

Events



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