

Confluence

People getting together to enhance Salt Creek



Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2005

Upcoming “Meet the Creek” Events

By Chris Oszak

Sat. April 16 Elk Grove Village 9:00am – noon. “Meet the Creek” will take place in Colony Park behind Margaret Meade Jr. High School on Biesterfield Rd. The Elk Grove Village Park District is co-sponsoring this event.

“Meet the Creek events are fun for the whole family. Spend time outside, learn a few new things and enjoy”!

Springbrook Nature Center will exhibit their birds of prey and the Cook County FPD will bring amphibians for show and tell.

Native plants and gardening your thing? The Natural Gardens will

bring an array of native forbs and shrubs to purchase. You can have fun with the Enviroscape model presented by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). SCWN and Prairie Rivers Network will provide activities for kids of all ages.

Sun. April 24 Fullersburg Woods Nature Center, Oak Brook 11:00am – 4:00pm. We will have our Salt Creek display on exhibit at their Earth Day event. Wild

Ones, the native gardening club, will join us to give native gardening tips.

Sat. April 30 Busse Woods 9:00am – noon.

“Meet the Creek” will take place in Grove 24. The Grove 24 entrance is on the south side of Higgins Rd. just east of 290. USFWS will be there with their Enviroscape model and Springbrook Nature Center will have an exhibit about their stream restoration.

Sun. June 19 Brookfield 11:00am – 2:00pm. “Meet the Creek” will take place in the North Kiwanis Park pavilion with parking across from the Brookfield Metra station. The Village of Brookfield Conservation Commission will provide free canoes for adventurers ready to test out some paddling. Look for the US F&W Enviroscape, gardening information and fun activities for the kids.

These “Meet the Creek” fairs are made possible through partial funding by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and the generous assistance of the event co-sponsors and ex-

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Looking for a Few Good Sponsors

By Nick Nikola

Every watershed has businesses large and small within the community. We are willing to bet that some of them would be proud to sponsor SCWN and the work we do. SCWN has achieved so much in our five years. Visit our website at www.saltcreekwatershed.org to learn about our many accomplishments. Since you are getting this newsletter, we know you believe in our mission and hopefully know some businesses that may as well. We are asking if you would help us make the connection. Financial support is most welcome but if that's not possible

helping at clean ups or a donation of time and expertise is also appreciated.

SCWN is a not-for profit group so donations can be tax deductible within the limits of the law. We are a small, all volunteer group and depend on the support of individuals, sponsors and organizations to enable us to continue our work throughout the Watershed. If you have just the business in mind or know of one that may want to hear more, please contact Nick Nikola at

creekguy@comcast.net

Salt Creek Cleanups

Saturday April 23, 2005

Elk Grove Village 9:00am - noon Nick will also be leading his annual Salt Creek clean up in . Contact Nick Nikola.

Saturday, April 30, 2005

LaGrange Park Woods Forest Preserve, 9:00am - noon. Meet in the parking lot on the corner of LaGrange Rd. and 31st St. Contact Ron Hursh with any questions.

Busse Woods Forest Preserve, 9:00am - noon. "Meet the Creek" will be part of this clean up event. Contact is Nick Nikola.

The second of our two annual clean ups will be held Sept. 17, 2005. Look for locations in the next newsletter.

Rain Gardens

By Amy Bodwell

Does your downspout disappear under the ground or sump pump drainage run cause a muddy mess? All the water that runs off the land ends up in our stormdrain system, overwhelming it in heavy rain. This increases the risk of flooding and pollution.

Do you have a lawn with standing water? Excess water can allow mosquitoes to breed. A rain garden

can help solve all of these problems. Plant some wet-tolerant native plants in a depression in your yard, redirect a downspout or sump pump drainage and watch it grow! Well, it's not quite that simple so check out

www.raingardens.org

for lots of help and information for the Midwest. Not sure you want to do it yourself, there are contractors and landscapers who can help!



Before: A low-lying area that collected excess rainwater. A rain garden was constructed to use the water as a resource.



After: Native vegetation was planted in the rain garden. Within its first year, the plants utilized the resource resulting in a lush garden.

Photo Credits: Jim Schulz, Brookfield Zoo

Nominations Open for New Board Members

By Ron Hursh

The Salt Creek Watershed Network (SCWN) organization is restructuring, expanding, and increasing the board membership. This creates an opportunity for anyone interested in waterway environmental issues to become active, learn about current concerns, and get involved in ongoing solutions.

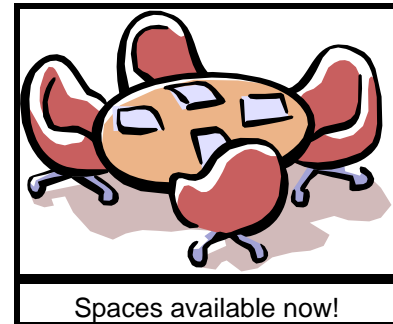
Active project descriptions have been published in previous Confluence newsletters published by SCWN that are available on our web site. They include streambank stabilization; pollution, water quality testing and reporting; outreach programs to municipalities, residents and businesses; waterway and bank cleanups; interactive school and community projects; and local and IEPA supported education days through Meet The Creek fairs.

Several people who have shown interest in active participation in managing our community creek resource have been given packets of information which included recent SCWN publications and brochures. This information is available to anyone and can be used to understand the mission and learn about projects completed by SCWN. Additionally, we are now considering partnerships which will significantly broaden our scope and impact. Perhaps with your help your

favorite environmental concern for a cleaner healthier creek or river can become another active project.

The board is planning an orientation program soon for people considering membership. Guests may attend a short regular business meeting followed by a presentation/discussion illustrating the type of issues SCWN is dedicated to address.

If you are interested in helping SCWN improve the watershed and make a difference, contact Ron Hursh at 708-354-4434 for information packets and the orientation meeting date.



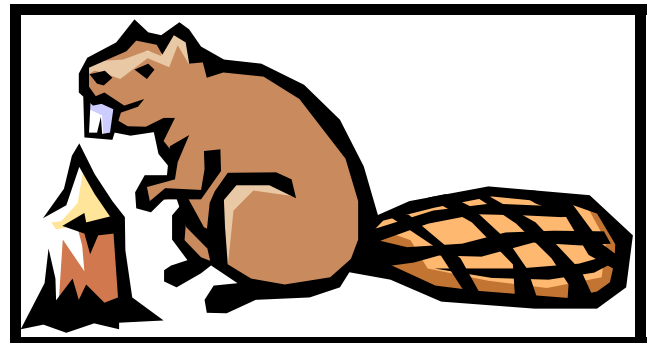
Beaver Bustin'!

By Nick Nikola

Those cute but pesky rodents are busy along the creek doing what beavers do best, cutting down trees. Beavers are a part of the wildlife in our urbanized neck of the woods. They've adapted to the many negative changes we've done to their homeland. They are just doing what they've done for millenniums, cut down trees and build their homes and dams.

In some parts of the country, folks call them wetland engineers because their actions create wetlands that in turn provide habitat for many species. However, here in the watershed, the beavers are not always appreciated. Their tree cutting prowess can decimate the trees along the creek and those they don't use can fall and dam up the creek. So how do you fight back? Get busy as a beaver and loosely wrap the trees you want to protect with a sturdy wire mesh

or chain link fence. While streambank vegetation benefits from sunlight, some trees are welcome and necessary as they protect soil and provide habitat. I can attest to the effectiveness of wire around trees- I live on the creek and no longer have beavers munching my wood!



Seeking Hometown Representatives

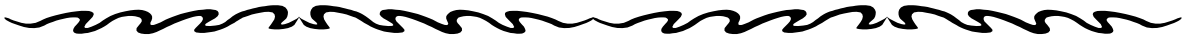
By Amy Bodwell

Before you rush to sign up, I suppose you'd like an idea of what this means. A Home Town Rep is an individual or individuals that live in a town and represent that town for SCWN. We need support in every town in the watershed to help get our message out and engage communities in helping to enhance and improve the creek.

What would you do? Maybe help lead a clean up or pass out brochures or maps, represent SCWN at a town event, or just answer questions. The level of participation depends on your interest and expertise. Some experienced people work closely with their village trustees while others give school talks and still

others make sure to let SCWN board know that work in their town may be impacting the creek. It's a job you can grow into as you have time and the inclination.

Hometown reps are encouraged to attend the monthly board meetings the first Monday of each month. Attendance at the annual meeting is strongly recommended. Most importantly you are a communicator of information from SCWN to your town and visa versa and an impetus to promote SCWN in your town. For more information, please contact Amy Bodwell at abodwell@comcast.net.



Creekside Caretakers Program Kicks into Gear

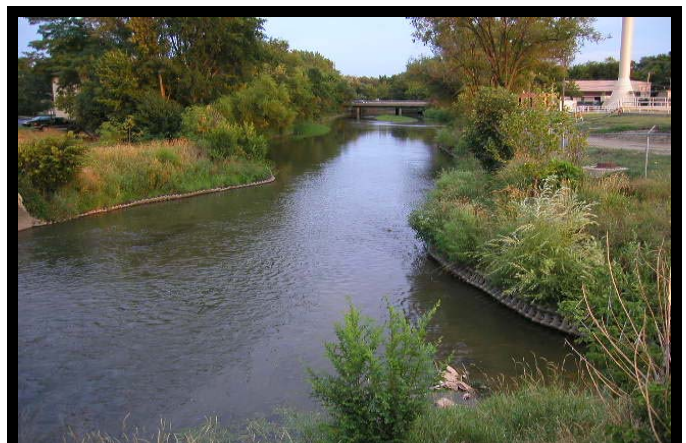
By Tom Richardson

After a winter hiatus, the Creekside Caretakers Program along Salt Creek is resuming this Spring. This program was started using funds from the DuPage Community Trust. Initially creekside residents in Oak Brook were contacted to see if they would be interested in some advise and assistance in caring for their land along the creek. Jeff Swano from Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc. (digrightin.com) and Program Manager Tom Richardson met with several

interested parties last Fall. They have scheduled second meetings with six landowners and one homeowner's association to go over the types of plants most suitable for creating a buffer on the creek bank. These individuals will then pick out the plants they want and schedule installation for this spring. SCWN is very excited about the potential of a program to serve as a model for others.



Before: Crazy creekside concrete lacks aesthetics and effectiveness.



After: A beautiful and natural solution to streambank erosion.

Photo Credits: Nick Nikola

Spring Into Action—Donate to SCWN

For SCWN to be more effective—and to be able to pursue more grant opportunities—we need additional donations to cover a variety of non-project expenses. Please contribute to a cause that is implementing the vision laid out six years ago that Salt Creek is a valuable natural resource worthy of protection and enhancement. Thank you.

Note: the mailing label on the other side may suffice for your mailing address.

_____ Your Name	_____ Phone Number	Please indicate your donation amount and make check payable to the Salt Creek Watershed Network: <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 individual support <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 family support <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 gift donation <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ other donation
_____ Organization's Name	_____ E-mail (optional)	
_____ Address	Return to: SCWN	
_____ City, State, Zip		

Thank you for your support!!!

Please cut on the dotted line and return to SCWN.

SCWN Board welcomes guest speaker May 2, 2005

Join us at the next meeting when Our guest speaker will be James Huff of Huff & Huff, Inc. Environmental Consulting In LaGrange, IL. He will be speaking about a variety of topics related to water quality in Salt Creek such as In-stream aeration, nutrient regulations and anti-degradation of streams

The meeting will be held at the Elmhurst Community Bank, 330 W. Butterfield Rd at Spring Rd in the Upstairs Conference Room.

SCWN meets the first Monday of every month (except holidays). All are welcome to join us.



Confluence

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Brookfield, IL 60513

www.saltcreekwatershed.org

Welcome to Spring!



Confluence

Visit Our Website Often
saltcreekwatershed.org



Cleanups, "Meet the Creek" fairs, and so much else going on, 2005 is going to be a great year for our Salt Creek.

Get involved, learn more, and have fun enjoying nature close to home!

The SCWN Board of Directors:

Ron Hursh	La Grange Park
Nick Nikola	Elk Grove Village
Keith Olson	Elmhurst
Christine Oszak	Villa Park
Tom Richardson	Oak Brook



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