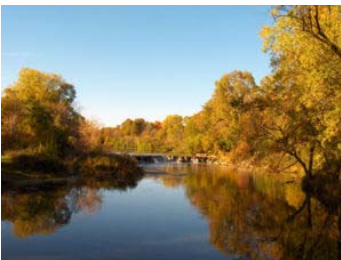


Currents

DuPage County
A Great Place To Live, Work, and Raise a Family

Stream Maintenance—Keeping Rivers Clean and Clear

The Stream Maintenance Program's goal is to help minimize potential flooding concerns within DuPage County. Since the County contains around 60 miles of rivers, streams, and creeks this program is an integral part of the Stormwater Management Division



Warrenville Grove
West Branch of DuPage
River

Under the Program stream crews remove sediment, invasive vegetation, trash, blockages, and other debris so that when heavy rains fall, the rivers and streams are able to convey floodwaters downstream effectively.

Stream bank stabilization projects are also funded under this program. Keeping the streams free of debris and stabilizing streambeds has contributed to creating a more natural condition for fish, plants, and wildlife. This also contributes to the life of flood control structures by reducing sediment buildup.

Nuisance animals, such as beaver, are humanely

trapped and relocated to areas where flooding they cause will be less problematic.

The benefits of the stream maintenance program are immeasurable. It provides residents with peace of mind to know that the rivers of DuPage County will continue to run smoothly during heavy rains.

For additional information on the Stream Maintenance Program in DuPage County contact:

Cory Kohut at (630)407-6800

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State honors local Environmentalists

Article contributed by Rob Olmstead of the Daily Herald

Frank Orto and the River Prairie Group Water Sentinels have done a lot to help clean up DuPage County rivers, but the chairman of the group -- which will receive an

award from the State today -- wants people to know they don't have to go all out like he did to make their environment a better place.

"Use a (dishwashing liquid) brand that doesn't have phosphorous in it," said Orto Wednesday. "I use Trader

Joe's and it works."

Even more conventional grocery stores like Jewel and

Article Cont. on page 3...

January 1, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

Greening The New Year

Article contributed by Paul Schaefer

According to a recent survey, 49 percent of all Americans will make a green New Year's resolution for 2008.

Direct Energy, a large North American provider of energy and energy-related services is offering tips to help homeowners keep their green resolutions. "Making a green resolution is easy since it can yield tremendous benefits, such as reducing energy consumption, saving money and helping the environment," said Dave Walton, director of home ideas for Direct Energy. "However, like any New Year's resolution, keeping that commitment to energy efficiency can be a little harder, so we wanted to offer these quick and easy tips to help homeowners."

To help homeowners get going, the company is challenging consumers to start the "seven days of saving challenge" -- quick and easy tips consumers can adopt each day to make their home more energy-efficient and reduce their carbon footprint:

-- **Change your light bulbs:** Year-around, lighting can account for as much as 25 percent of a home's electrical use. Simply replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights that use up to

75 percent less energy. Imagine if every American home replaced their five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified models. The estimated savings would amount to nearly \$8 billion dollars a year -- greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars!

-- **Upgrade to ENERGYSTAR appliances:** ENERGYSTAR labeled products can cut your energy bills by up to 30 percent when you're ready to replace your heating and cooling systems -- as well as appliances, lighting, windows, office equipment, and home electronics. Consider investing in new appliances if your budget allows since you should see immediate energy savings.

-- **Use the dishwasher more:** One load of dishes cleaned in a dishwasher requires 37 percent less water than washing dishes by hand. However, if you fill the wash and rinse basins instead of letting the water run, you'll use half as much water as a dishwasher.

-- **Unplug the charger on your cell phone:** When portable devices such as a cellular telephone are finished charging, disconnect the device and unplug the charger. Even if the device isn't connected, energy continues to seep out

through the charger itself.

-- **Purchase a rug** in the season's newest color -- Green. A rug is not only a decorator's must have, but it also helps insulate your floors and cut down on the noise too.

-- **Let the sunshine in.** Open the drapes or blinds on sunny days and bask in the 'free' heat. Keep those south-facing windows squeaky clean to let the light through. Remember to close the drapes or blinds when the sun sets.

-- **Renewable energy** does not only include solar panels and windmills on your home. Start thinking about what is right for you and your family.



EPA & Dow Chemicals Negotiate River Cleanups

"Article included to display significance of river cleanups and their effect on the environment"

Article contributed by Paul Schaefer

CHICAGO - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today extended a deadline with Dow Chemical to negotiate a settlement to conduct and finance an investigation, a study and interim cleanup actions for dioxin contamination in the Tittabawassee River system.

In October the EPA called for negotiations under provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or Superfund.

Superfund specifies the process in which a remedial investigation and feasibility study must be conducted, as well as the design and execution of a cleanup plan. EPA established a Dec. 10 deadline to resolve negotiations, with the option to extend the negotiations if appropriate. "Negotiations to this point have been productive, though a number of key issues have yet to be resolved," said Ralph Dollhopf, Associate Director for the Superfund Division of EPA's Regional Office in Chicago.

The targeted area begins upstream of Dow's Midland, Mich., facility and extends downstream to the Saginaw River, its floodplains and Saginaw Bay in Lake Huron.

Under a Superfund agreement, Dow's investigation and study effort would be expected to evaluate the nature and extent of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants from the site and assess the risks they present to human health and the environment.

It would also need to provide enough

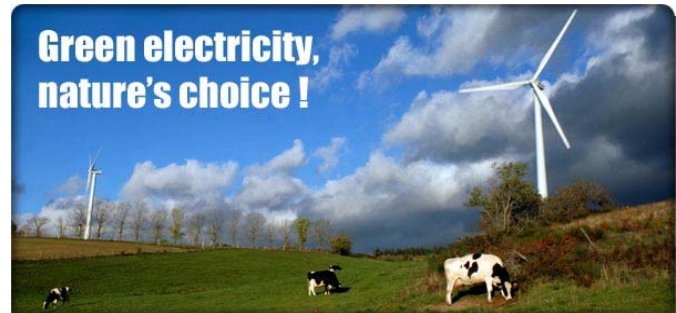
Greening continued from page 2...

Direct Energy also purchases electricity from renewable energy sources with solar panels, windmills and other technologies. By purchasing a Direct Energy product, you are also purchasing renewable energy.

For those who really want to challenge themselves in 2008, Direct Energy encourages consumers to join Energy Star's "Change a Light" campaign and pledge to save on their personal energy usage. Take the pledge to change even one incandescent light bulb in your house to a CFL bulb. You are guaranteed to achieve

savings in energy consumption, and reduce your energy costs.

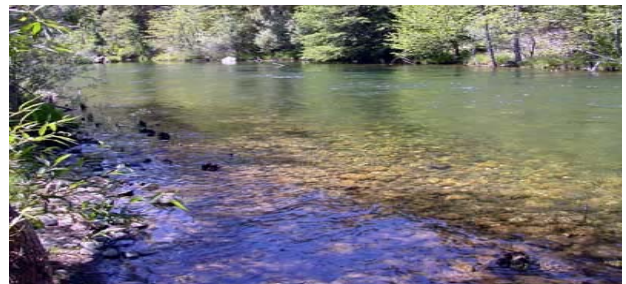
For additional Information see contacts on page 4.



River Cleanup continued from page 2...

data to develop and evaluate a range of cleanup options. Dow's Midland facility is a 1,900-acre chemical manufacturing plant. Dioxins and furans are byproducts from the manufacture of chlorine-based products. Past waste disposal practices, fugitive emissions and incineration at Dow have resulted in on- and off-site dioxin and furan contamination.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5



Local Environmentalist continued from page 1...

Dominicks are getting in on the action and making non-phosphorous alternatives available, said Orto. Besides watching what products they use, Orto and the Sentinels have spearheaded testing of three waterways in DuPage County for seven years now, documenting pollutant levels, bringing kudos to areas that have improved water quality and drawing attention to areas that haven't. The group has documented its findings in its latest report available on its Web site.

Orto, of Lombard, and the Sentinels will be honored by the state for their environmental activism today in a 1:30 p.m. ceremony on the 15th floor of the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago.

Also receiving awards are:

Shari Walsh and Alyssa Fliege, Lombard: After Fliege lost her father in a dam accident in 2006, she and Walsh lobbied the General Assembly to pass the Dam Safety Initiative, which authorizes the state to place safety warning signs at dams.

Searle and Sue Wadley, Antioch: Both worked with the Liberty Prairie Conservancy to create a conservation easement on the 100 acres of property they bought between the Gander Mountain Forest Preserve, Chain O'Lakes State Park and the Peat Lake Natural Area. The easement will ensure their property will remain natural and pristine.

Gary Mielke of Wheaton: Kane County Recycling Coordinator: Mielke worked to raise Kane County's recycling participation from 40 percent of households to about 90 percent. He also encourages people to recycle harmful chemicals in batteries and other items.

Mike Mieszala, Warren Township High School: As a high school teacher, Mieszala organized river cleanup days with students.

Robert Richmond, Bolingbrook: A 16-year-old high school sophomore, Richmond has led efforts to remove invasive plant species from the Will County Forest Preserve.

Ken Schaefer, Des Plaines: Schaefer helped Cumberland School create a rain garden in 1999, which replaced grass with native plants that improved water quality and helped control flooding. He and Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, who is giving out the awards Thursday, were instrumental in securing grants for establishing similar rain gardens.

For additional information see contacts on page 4.

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DuPage County
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421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

DuPage County Stormwater Committee

Stormwater Committee Municipal Members

James Zay, **Chairman**
Mike Connelly
Paul Fichtner
Kyle Gilgis
Jerry McBride
Brien Sheahan

Nick Dzierzanowski
Dave Johnson
Thomas Marcucci
Vacant
Vacant

Meets 1st Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m. in 3500B
Secretary: Angela Bendenelli 407-6805

~open to the public~

For Additional Information:

“Stream Maintenance” - Contact Cory Kohut at (630) 407-6800 or ckohut@dupageco.org

“State honors local Environmentalist”- Contact Rob Olmstead at *The Daily Herald* Rolmstead@dailyherald.com

“Greening The New Year” - Paul Schaefer, ENN
Published December 27, 2007
To learn more: <http://www.directenergy.com/> or
www.energystar.gov.

“EPA & Dow Chemicals Negotiate River Cleanups” -
Paul Schaefer, ENN, Published December 27, 2007

Check for Web Updates
at
www.Dupageco.org

Additional questions regarding Currents
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