

2020 DuPage Environmental Summit

Presented By

The Conservation Foundation



Is Climate Change Impacting DuPage County?

January 30, 2020 7:30-12:00 PM

Northern Illinois University, Naperville Campus

7:30-8:30 Registration/Exhibits/Light Breakfast

8:30-8:50 Welcome

Brook McDonald, President/CEO, The Conservation Foundation

Tim Elliott, DuPage County Board Member

Barb Szczepaniak, Vice President for Programs, DuPage Foundation

Dan Hebreard, President Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

8:50-9:30 Climate Change in the Chicago Region: adapting to its impact on natural communities

Dr. Douglas Stotz, Senior Conservation Ecologist, Field Museum, Keller Science Action Center

We have witnessed unusual weather patterns and more severe storms recently. Climate change is shifting the usual snow and rainfall patterns in dramatic ways, profoundly affecting the natural communities. Dr. Stotz will discuss his findings and the impact these changes are having on our environment

9:30-10:00 Climate Change in our Urban Forest

Melissa Custic, Chicago Region Trees Initiative Specialist, Morton Arboretum

Many people have heard about planting trees as a way to 'fix' climate change. While it is true that trees are a great tool for mitigating the impacts to our region, this talk will focus on the risks to trees that are amplified by climate change and what we can do to ensure that our trees and this region are resilient to our growing challenges.



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DuPage
Foundation





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10:00-10:30 BREAK/RAFFLE (Sponsored by Bedrock Earthscapes, LLC) Exhibit Area Open

10:30-11:00 Ecosystem Restoration: Improved quality of life. For Whom?

Erik Neidy, Director of Natural Resources, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District has a long standing history as stewards of the open space in DuPage County. Erik will discuss their restoration efforts and overall changes and trends in the ecosystem they have witnessed over time. He will discuss their approach to dealing with these changes and how they help the natural areas respond and adapt to these stresses on their ecosystem.

11:00-11:30 Local Impact of Climate Change on Rainfall, Flooding and Water Quality in DuPage County

Mary Beth Falsey, Water Quality Supervisor

Chris Vonnahme, Chief Stormwater Engineer

Mary Beth and Chris will talk about the observed and anticipated impacts that climate change will have in DuPage County. They will cover topics including more frequent and intense rain events, operation of the County's flood control facilities, urban flooding and drainage issues, impacts to floodplain and floodway boundaries, and the quality of stormwater and surface water in DuPage County.

11:30-11:45 Improving Sustainability in DuPage County

Joy Hinz, Environmental Specialist for the County Environmental Division

DuPage County has been working hard on several sustainability initiatives. Ms. Hinz will be discussing the status of the Cool DuPage initiative, the County's efforts supporting solar installations and their recent natural landscape achievements at the County Campus.

11:45 Closing comments

Exhibit Area Will Remain Open



2020 Speakers

Dr. Douglas Stotz has been at the Field Museum for more than two decades. He is co-chair of the Chicago Wilderness Climate Change Task Force and is focused on the bird migration and the effects of climate change on the bird populations in the Chicago region. In addition to his focus on birds in the Chicago region, Douglas has done extensive research in South America and authored two books.

Melissa Custic is the Chicago Region Trees Initiative Specialist, managing projects developed by interagency work groups and helping the Chicago Region become the greenest, most livable, most resilient region in North America. Melissa holds a masters degree in Plant Biology and Conservation from Northwestern University plus a decade of experience in research, education, and outreach and was named a 'Millennial to Watch' in 2019 by the Illinois Contractors Association.

Erik Needy has a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University and a Master of Science in Restoration Ecology from Governors State University. Erik began working for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in 2001. During the last 18 years his focus has been aimed at native ecosystem restoration, enhancement, creation, and management. The primary focus has been on roughly 12,000 to 26,000 acres of open space in DuPage County. Restoration of wetland, woodland, prairie and stream/aquatic habitats aimed at maximizing biodiversity and increasing wildlife utilization across all habitats.

Mary Beth Falsey has been with DuPage County for over 15 years. As Water Quality Supervisor she is responsible for DuPage County's compliance with the NPDES ILR40 permit and also coordinates the County's IEPA grant funded efforts on watershed planning for impaired waterways. She has a M.S. in Geography, Soil Science and a B.S in Geography, Natural Environmental Systems from Northern Illinois University. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, and is the President of the Illinois Soil Classifiers Association.

Chris Vonnahme is the Chief Stormwater Engineer with the DuPage County Stormwater Management Department. He has been with the County for almost 30 years. Chris oversees the Watershed Planning Division, assists with the operation and maintenance of the County's flood control facilities as well as the development of a flood forecasting system through a cooperative agreement with the USGS. Chris earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois and is a Certified Floodplain Manager.



2020 Speakers (cont'd)

Joy Hinz has been working on environmental and sustainability projects at DuPage County for nearly 20 years. Ms. Hinz was heavily involved in the development of the Cool DuPage initiative and has been working on solar programs for the County since the adoption of the Future Energy Jobs Act. Ms. Hinz will provide a brief overview of recent County sustainability efforts.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Membership Luncheon: Close Encounters: Urban Wildlife + Human Interaction

February 19 from 11:30-2:00 pm at Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton

Winter Birds of the Fox River: How Are They Doing? What Are We Seeing?

February 19 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Pottawatomie Community Center, St. Charles

February 26 from 7:00-8:00 pm at Kendall County Courthouse, East Wing Conference Room

Upcoming Events Sponsored in Partnership with

DuPage County Stormwater Management:

Beyond the Basics Stormwater Management 2020 Seminar:

Designing For An Uncertain Future

February 27 from 8:00-Noon at Abbington Distinctive Banquets, Glen Ellyn

Salt Creek Watershed Workshop

March 4 from Noon-1:30 pm at Elmhurst City Hall

West Branch Watershed Workshop

April 8 from Noon-1:30 pm at Carol Stream Village Hall

East Branch Watershed Workshop

May 6 from Noon-1:30 pm at Bloomingdale Park District, Johnston Recreation Center



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Exhibitors and Sponsors

<p>Bartlett Tree Experts 751 N Bolingbrook Dr., Link 12 Bolingbrook, IL 60440 (630) 960-4001 www.bartlett.com</p>	<p>Cool DuPage/DuPage County (Sponsor) 421 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 407-6700 www.dupage.org/CoolDuPage</p>
<p>Bedrock Earthscapes LLC (Sponsor) 1501 E. Harrison Ave Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 461-1159 www.bedrockearthscapes.com</p>	<p>DuPage County Stormwater Management (Sponsor) 421 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 407-6700 www.dupageco.org/swm</p>
<p>Cristopher B. Burke Engineering (Sponsor) 9575 West Higgins Rd. Rosemont, IL 60018 (847) 823-0500 www.cbbel.com</p>	<p>DuPage Monarch Project Email: twenstr111@msn.com www.dupagemonarchs.com</p>
<p>Citizens Climate Lobby Email: cclnaperville@gmail.com www.citizensclimatelobby.org</p>	<p>DuPage River Salt Creek Work Group The Conservation Foundation 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd. Naperville, IL 60565 (630) 428-4500 www.drscw.org</p>
<p>ComEd Energy Efficiency Program 125 S. Clark St.. 17th Floor Chicago, IL 60603 312-267-2275 www.comed.com</p>	<p>ENCAP, Inc. 2585 Wagner Ct. DeKalb, IL 60115 (815) 748-4500 www.encapinc.net</p>

<p>Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (Sponsor) 3S580 Naperville Rd. Wheaton, IL 60189-8761 (630) 779-4893</p> <p>www.dupageforest.org</p>	<p>The Resiliency Institute 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd. Naperville, IL 60565 (630) 447-9910</p> <p>www.theresiliencyinstitute.net</p>
<p>Green Earth Harvest The Conservation Foundation 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd. Naperville, IL 60565 (630) 428-4500</p> <p>www.theconservationfoundation.org</p>	<p>SCARCE 799 Roosevelt Rd. Building 2, Suite 108 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 (630) 545-9710</p> <p>www.scarcecoed.org</p>
<p>Hey & Associates, Inc. 26575 W. Commerce Dr., Suite 601 Volo, IL 60073 (847) 740-0888</p> <p>www.heyassoc.com</p>	<p>Sierra Club, River Prairie Group Connie Schmidt (630)393-6276</p> <p>www.sierraclub.org/Illinois/river-prairie</p>
<p>Illinois Solar Energy Association 1281 E. Brummel Ave. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 (630) 373-4543</p> <p>www.illinoissolar.org</p>	<p>The Conservation Foundation (Sponsor) 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd. Naperville, IL 60565 (630) 428-4500</p> <p>www.theconservationfoundation.org</p>
<p>The Morton Arboretum– Chicago Region Tree Initiative 4100 Illinois Route 53 Lisle, IL 60532 (630) 968-0074</p> <p>www.mortonarb.org</p>	