

2018 Sangamon Watershed Celebration

**Morning Displays, Literature, and Activities – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
In the National Sequestration Education Center Exhibit Hall**

The Sangamon Watershed Celebration morning session is filled with family-friendly activities and educational exhibits for people of all ages from young children to older students to adults wanting to learn about organizations in the Sangamon River Watershed. Enjoy tours of a wind turbine and solar panels. Make the earth quake. Observe macroinvertebrates through a microscope. Try your hand at casting for fish. Learn about local conservation programs and visit with people working to conserve natural and cultural resources in the Sangamon Watershed. And much more.

Morning Exhibitors

Illinois State Water Survey
Izaak Walton League
Sangamon River Alliance
Community Environmental Council
Decatur Audubon Society
Friends of Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park
Macon County Conservation District
Upper Sangamon River Conservancy
Champaign Forest Preserve District
SONA – Sustain Our Natural Resources
Glacier's Edge Master Naturalists
National Sequestration Education Center
Prairie Rivers Network
U of I Extension, Macon County
Agricultural Watershed Institute
Clarkson Grain Company
Lincoln Heritage Water Trail
Land Conservation Foundation
Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District
City of Decatur/Sangamon Ecosystem Partnership

Displays, literature, activities

Streamband Erosion Demonstration Table
Learn to Cast
Microscopic Pond Life
Web of Life Game
Crafts and Bird Egg Match
Corn Hole game
Wetland Animals
Macroinvertebrate Microscopes and Mussel Match
Make a Sail Boat
Earth in My Hand
Wetland Mammals – pelts
Science Activities for Kids; Wind Turbine & Solar Panel tour
Monarch Butterfly Activity
Display and literature
Perennial crops & water quality display & literature
Locally-grown Prairie Melody Birdseed for purchase
A Sangamon Corridor plan from Decatur to Petersburg
Connecting people and nature in East Central Illinois
Tabletop Watershed Model; conservation literature
Literature table

(This exhibitor list is subject to change. Some exhibits will stay up through lunch and the afternoon session.)

Lunch **Between 11:30 and 12:45, box lunches will be available for a suggested price of \$10 and the Guadalajara Mobile Truck will be on hand to sell Mexican items.**

2018 Sangamon Watershed Celebration

Afternoon Agenda – 12:45 to 5:00 pm – Concurrent sessions

12:45 – Welcome and Overview – *Scott Hays, Sangamon River Alliance; Steve John, Agricultural Watershed Institute*

1:00 to 5:00 – Concurrent sessions – Session A in Exhibit Hall – Session B in classroom

1:00 A – RiverWatch/Clean Stream Challenge – *Debbie Fluegel, Illinois RiverWatch /Ron Moore, Izaak Walton League*

Two stream monitoring programs, The Illinois RiverWatch Network coordinated by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and the Clean Stream Challenge coordinated by the National Izaak Walton League, will be compared and contrasted.

1:00 B – The Sangamon River: The Place Where There is Plenty to Eat – *Mallory Krieger, The Land Connection*

According to some, the Pottawatomie origin of the word “Sangamon” is ‘the place where there is plenty to eat’. Mallory will share information about growing, selling and eating the tremendous variety of local foods available throughout the Sangamon watershed.

2:00 A – Lincoln’s Flatboat Journey: A Re-enactment– *Candy Knox and Terry Miller, New Salem State Historic Site*

Candy and Terry were instrumental in the effort of the New Salem Historic Site near Petersburg to re-construct the flatboat that Abraham Lincoln and his cousins used to transport a load of goods from New Salem to New Orleans in 1831. They will share a video slideshow of the project with a discussion to follow.

2:00 B – Pollinators Love Clean Energy! – *Amanda Pankau, Prairie Rivers Network*

Amanda will present information on why solar farms are popping up all over the state of Illinois and how these solar farms present an opportunity to support many area efforts to restore monarch butterfly populations and other pollinators statewide, including right here in the Sangamon Watershed in Monticello.

3:00 A – Mussels of the Sangamon – *Jeannie Barnes, Illinois Natural History Survey*

“Pistolgrip, Monkeyface, Wabash Pigtoe” What kinds of mussels would Abraham Lincoln have found while exploring the Sangamon River? Freshwater mussels have some of the most unusual names and an amazing strategy for reproduction. Jeannie will explain more about these interesting animals and how they have fared over the years.

3:00 B – Paddling the Sangamon – *Scott Hays (upper); Rosalyn O’Conner (middle); and Kent Massie (lower)*

Three experienced Sangamon River canoeists from up and down the river will share their knowledge on the Sangamon River including how and where to access the river, good river levels for floating, and the joys and challenges of paddling the Sangamon River.

4:00 A – Lincoln and the Deep Snow – *Dan Monroe, Millikin University*

The winter of 1830-31 in Illinois was a defining moment for antebellum settlers in the state. Harsh and unrelenting, the weather conditions were so fierce that those who endured the extreme cold and snow regarded the ordeal as a seminal one in their lives. Abraham Lincoln and his family suffered through the fierce season, and the experience had an impact on our most revered president.

4:00 B – Cover Crops, Carbon Sequestration, and Renewable Energy – *David Larrick, Richland Community College*

Dr. Larrick will discuss programs and research at Richland including sequestering carbon in geological formations and in soils. Weather permitting, will include a tour of wind, solar, and biomass demonstrations near the NSEC building.

2018 Sangamon Watershed Celebration

Evening Program – 5:00 to 7:30 pm – Reception, Dinner, Film, Discussion

5:00 Reception – Includes cash bar for wine and beer

5:30 Dinner – Buffet dinner by the Richland Culinary Arts Program – fee \$15/person

6:15 Showing of the Documentary Film, ***The Sangamon River: A Sense of Place***

7:15 Filmmaker Charles Schweighauser will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the showing

Charles Schweighauser is an official Illinois Bicentennial Lecturer and has given numerous presentations throughout the State in 2018 in recognition of the bicentennial of Illinois Statehood. In addition to his Sangamon River documentary, he produced a companion film titled *Illinois Prairie: A Sense of Place*. The following highlights of his academic career and civic engagement are from a 2014 “Most Interesting Person” feature in the *State Journal-Register*:

[Professor Schweighauser] began his career in 1963 as the founding director of the James S. McDonnell Planetarium in St. Louis. He joined the faculty of Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois Springfield) in 1974, when the school operated out of temporary buildings. He started his free-to-the-public Star Parties in 1977 and is proud of his efforts to make the parties accessible to people with disabilities.

He retired [in 2002] with the title professor emeritus of English and astronomy and physics at UIS and has published works on James Joyce and Ralph Waldo Emerson. After retirement, he taught for seven years, directed observatories and conducted research, he said.

Not only has Schweighauser inspired generations as an instructor and at his public presentations at UIS, he is also inspiring to all ages as an environmentalist. At his quarter-acre home in Pleasant Plains, Schweighauser has installed a dry lake with two dry rivers, a prairie path and an orchard.

“He is most interesting to me,” [former UIS grad student AJ] Wacaser said, “because he taught me to look closer at the Sangamon River Valley prairie species and community as a sense of place. Whether the subject was in art, literature, astronomy, physical science, travel or fishing, Charlie had the answers to my questions while inspiring me to teach others and continue learning every day.”

Schweighauser and his wife, Barbara, have five children and 10 grandchildren. They are interested in classical music, especially opera. He is a member of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra board to “help promote classical music in central Illinois,” he said, and he has taught graduate courses in comic opera at UIS.

Schweighauser has also traveled the world fly fishing and said he’s fished just about everywhere except Africa and Antarctica, but he has been to Antarctica to study animals.

The annual **Sangamon Watershed Celebration** is sponsored by:

Agricultural Watershed Institute

Sangamon River Alliance

Co-sponsors include:

City of Decatur

Richland Community College

Decatur Audubon Society

Community Environmental Council

Friends of Lincoln Trail Homestead

Prairie Rivers Network

University of Illinois Extension

Upper Sangamon River Conservancy