



Illinois RiverWatch And NGRREC To Host Fall Speaker Series

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EAST ALTON – Join the Illinois RiverWatch Network and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) for the Illinois RiverWatch Fall Speaker Series, featuring free Zoom presentations from four different scientists.

According to RiverWatch Director and Stream Ecologist Danelle Haake, the RiverWatch Fall Speaker Series will help make RiverWatch more of a year-round program.

“We hope the series will give people an opportunity to learn more about water through a series of online events,” Haake said. “We are focusing on how the choices we make in the watershed can impact streams and the animals who live in them.”

The series kicks off next week with a discussion led by Megan Pagliaro, a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB).

“I’m going to be talking about freshwater fish in urban systems,” Pagliaro said. “I look forward to discussing my research and answering any questions on freshwater ecology.”

Following is a list of dates, times, speakers and topics along with registration information.

Impact of Urban Heat Islands on Freshwater Fish: 7 p.m., Sept. 22

Speaker: Megan Pagliaro, Ph.D. student at UCB

The Important Role of Streamside Vegetation in a Changing Climate: 7 p.m., Oct. 6

Speaker: Dr. Jason Knouft, professor of Biology at St. Louis University

3D Printing and the Evolutionary Ecology of North American Riverine Snails: 7 p.m., Oct. 26

Speaker: Dr. Paul Brunkow, associate professor of Biology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

How Winter Road Salt Hurts Water Quality and What We Can Do About It: 7 p.m., Nov. 12

Speaker: Dr. Danelle Haake, NGRREC RiverWatch Director and Stream Ecologist

To sign-up for one or more of these free events, registration links can be found on the Illinois RiverWatch Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IllinoisRiverWatch or send an email to riverwatch@lc.edu.

Those interested can register until the day of the event. Zoom links will be emailed to registrants prior to each presentation.

For more information about the Illinois RiverWatch program, visit www.ngrrec.org/RiverWatch or contact Haake at (618) 468-8724 or dhaake@lc.edu.

RiverWatch is a statewide partnership of organizations and individuals working to protect Illinois streams and waterways. Established in 1995 as a sub-program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Eco Watch Network, RiverWatch certified volunteers, called citizen scientists, examine indicators like stream habitats and macroinvertebrate (stream bug) communities to provide reliable water quality data that can be used by scientists to determine how the conditions of streams are changing over time.