The Intersection of Environment and Transportation
By Jason J. Osborn, Principal Transportation Planner at the McHenry County Division of Transportation; editors Sarah Chadderdon, Wally Dittrich, and Ernest Varga

Fish swim, birds fly, and people walk. At its core, transportation isn’t as complicated as all the highway design documents, air traffic controller screens, and transit schedule maps might suggest. The needs for transportation are woven into our DNA and our societies. Just like the fish and birds, we move and move things around to maximize our access to food, raise young, and find shelter from the elements. Unlike fish and birds, we carve out mountains, drain marshes, and burn fuels to help us move.

Our ancestors followed the retreating glaciers into this area around 12,000 years ago. Most of the goods and services during ancient times were produced and consumed locally and distributed along pedestrian paths and waterways. As practiced still in many parts of world today, the daily commute consisted of walking for water and firewood.

In the 19th century, the old oak groves in McHenry County were reduced in thirty-five years from 143,000 acres in 1837 to 72,000 acres by 1872 (McHenry County Conservation District, 2007). Most of the prairie was also turned over to pasture and field. Mills sprang up along creeks and rivers. A few select ancient paths became wagon trails to accommodate the strange non-native horse; other paths became rail lines; and some ancient portages became shipping channels. Gravel and clay pits were dug throughout the County to provide building materials for the expanding City of Chicago. All of these

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Members of The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County receive the newsletter as a membership benefit. Basic memberships start at $50. For information, questions, comments on membership or address changes, please contact our office at (815) 338-0393 or e-mail us at mcdef@owc.net.

**Environmental Defenders of McHenry County**

Mission Statement

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a citizen organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the environment. We are committed to building sound ecological relationships between people and the natural world that supports all life.

To achieve the aim of environmental preservation and improvement, we provide the community with educational programs and volunteer action on pollution prevention, sustainable land use and energy and natural resource conservation.

We advocate policies that protect drinking water supplies and conserve land for open space and agriculture. We demonstrate waste reduction through recycling drives and reuse centers. We encourage natural resource protection through native landscaping and stream protection programs.

**Environmental Defenders of McHenry County**

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Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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We appreciate the support of our Green Business Partners and hope you will support them! Please see page 11 for full list of partners.
changes allowed for a greater exchange of goods and services eventually spanning the continent. All of these changes occurred before the automobile.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, city planners, seeking to beautify cities and improve sanitation, and bicycle advocacy groups, seeking hard riding surfaces, led the charge to pave roads. The Ford Motor Company designed and built the Model T for the common folk; and, streetcars and horse-drawn buggies began to compete with private cars. Pulling vacationers out of the mud became a cottage industry in McHenry County. After World War I, the one room school houses dotting the County were replaced with larger school campuses. The demand for paved roads grew with the popularity and use of the automobile and school busing programs. Soldiers returning from World War II were given huge financial incentives to move out of their parents’ homes and start families. The Eisenhower Interstate System was built off of the Federal Works Progress Administration Projects of the 1930s, which led to rapid suburbanization. By 1960, it was obvious to most urban dwellers that the internal combustion engine was poisonous and that the space required for its efficient operation and storage was not available. Drivers checked the smog conditions each morning before heading into central Los Angeles and said driving was like “shooting rapids in a boat” requiring a constant effort to “keep one’s head” (Lynch, 1960, pp. 41-42).

At the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago, General Motors demonstrated how rural America of the 1930s would evolve to be an automobile-centric suburban community of the 1950s. A later example of this exhibit is provided below (See Figure 1).

For the last 70 years, engineers and planners generally have built suburban areas based on this 1930s’ vision. The similarity of this vision with what is currently being designed for highways is striking. The picture is different from reality in two notable ways. The intersection depicted is not as wide as a real intersection and there are no parking lots or garages visible. A more real-life picture of “Our American Crossroads” would show fewer buildings at the intersection, acres of parking lots in place of the scenic wooded hills, bigger residential lots for garages, and grade-separated bicycle and pedestrian crossings. These types of secondary physical impacts are clearly visible by reviewing images (from Google Earth) of the Randall Road and Algonquin Road intersection over the last 20 years (See Figure 2).

Today, our transportation infrastructure is a hodge-podge of hundreds of generations of work. We still walk and boat as in ancient times, we still ride horses and the train as in the settlement times, and we still drive our cars and ride buses as we did at the dawning of the nuclear age. However, in 1969, a few of us left the planet and took pictures of the world from the
perspective of the stars and moon. The mystery and awe generally reserved for the heavens was reawakened in the hearts and minds of thousands of people and directed toward the planet itself. During the same period, the Civil Rights and Equal Rights Movements in the United States pushed the application of the Constitution into areas of society previously slighted. On January 1, 1970, President Richard Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), establishing a national Environmental Protection Agency and required that environmental impact statements be prepared for major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment (Alm, 1988). Because highway systems had been effectively federalized beginning in the 1930s, NEPA immediately applied to almost all highway projects. This came as a great challenge to thousands of years of engineering traditions, which sought and continue to seek efficient design and construction of facilities that balance the estimated construction costs and future maintenance costs.

Generally speaking, the NEPA environmental review process is limited to measuring many impacts related to a specific highway project. This is what the McHenry County Division of Transportation means when it says “the County is following the federal process.” The NEPA process measures likely impacts on threatened and endangered species habitat, wetlands, prime farmlands, and trees by width. The process also measures nitrogen oxides and other smog-producing compounds, economic impacts such as loss of property or business revenues, and social impacts such as noise and neighborhood cohesion. The NEPA process does not apply to future building permits and highway access permits along a highway, and it does not measure the cumulative impacts of separate roadway projects being built. Therefore, it does not measure impacts related to the number of acres of parking eventually to be built along a highway, the economic impacts of resulting land use choices such as the construction of convenient big box stores, or the increase in the number of side roads supporting adjacent developments. As seen in the pictures of the Randall Road and Algonquin Road intersection, impacts outside of the NEPA process can have far greater impacts than the highway itself.

For many years, city planners and bicycle advocacy groups have pushed to expand the NEPA process to consider additional issues. The State Legislature of Illinois passed the Bikeway Act and has revised the Illinois Highway Code with Context Sensitivity and Bicycle and Pedestrian Ways legislation. The Bikeway Act charges the State Department of Transportation to plan, designate, and maintain a state-wide bikeways program (Illinois General Assembly, 1994). Context Sensitivity refers to Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) (Illinois General Assembly, 2004). CSS calls for early and frequent public involvement and a thorough review of alternative and innovative design options for highway projects. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Ways legislation is better known as Complete Streets legislation (Illinois General Assembly, 2007). It calls for the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities for any major roadwork on State Highways.

The County has a long-range transportation planning process aimed at the successful implementation of the NEPA process for individual projects and the expansion of the NEPA process to consider cumulative and other impacts of the transportation system as a whole. The McHenry County Division of Transportation is beginning an update of its plan at the end of this year. The County has secured a Federal Unified Work Program grant and is working to secure a Federal Subregional Planning grant to fund the public involvement and transit components of the plan. Our division has crash statistics, traffic counts, transit ridership numbers, and has developed a traffic model using the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s future population and employment estimates. All of this information will be rendered useless unless the community is engaged. That’s where you and your neighbors are needed. The County’s planning process seeks new insights and innovative solutions. Please consider becoming involved in the process to lend your personal expertise and casual thoughts. All you have to do right now is send an e-mail to jjosborn@co.mchenry.il.us or call me at (815) 334-4981 to have your name, mailing address, and e-mail added to the mailing list to receive updates and meeting information for the upcoming planning process.

Works Cited


http://www.conservemc.org/images/quercus-MCCD%20map.jpg
New planning efforts will seek to address protections for water resources and aquatic habitat in two eastern McHenry County watersheds (see What is a Watershed? and Where are the Watersheds? — right). The Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds are home to significant natural resources, including dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, rare fens, and several lakes enjoyed by community members as a source of recreation.

The Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds drain into the Fox River, an important source of drinking water, community recreation, and wildlife habitat. However, Fox River water quality has been impaired by activities that have not adequately protected natural resources. Working to protect and restore the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds will support local communities and help to restore the Fox River.

What is Watershed Planning?
Watershed planning is a collaborative, locally supported approach to improving water quality, considering groundwater protection, and restoring healthy aquatic communities on a watershed basis. Watersheds are defined by nature and do not follow jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, watershed planning provides opportunities for community members from multiple jurisdictions to work together and develop solutions to shared water resource challenges.

The Defenders and other participating organizations are seeking input from local community members in order to develop watershed plans for the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds that consider local concerns and priorities.

Benefits of Watershed Planning
Planning locally means community leaders, residents, organizations, and businesses will have an opportunity to work together to address common water-related challenges. These challenges can include improving stream and lake water quality, preserving and protecting groundwater resources, reducing flood damage and soil erosion, conserving open space, preserving wildlife habitat, protecting farmland, providing recreational opportunities and other concerns.

When completed, the plans will identify ways to improve water quality and address concerns related to groundwater and other natural resources within the watersheds. One purpose of this collaborative effort is to identify priority project and planning recommendations to improve water quality. Projects identified in these plans can become eligible for state and federal grants to help local organizations implement those projects.

How You Can Help
If you live, work, or play in the Silver Creek or Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds, please consider participating in the planning process. There are many ways you can contribute or volunteer. Day and evening meetings will be held in the watersheds through December of 2011. Meetings are open to the public and all who are interested in learning more about the planning projects are welcome to attend. For updates on the planning process and dates/locations of upcoming meetings, visit http://foxriverecosystem.org/planning.htm. For more information, contact the Watershed Coordinator, Lynn Rotunno at watershedinfo@mcdefenders.net or call the Defenders office at 815-338-0393.

These planning projects are funded by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. Watershed planning oversight is the responsibility of CMAP. Planning Partners include the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, and the Fox River Study Group.

Communities within the planning areas include Oakwood Hills, Prairie Grove, and portions of Bull Valley, Cary, Crystal Lake, and McHenry. The planning areas also includes portions of Nunda Township, Algonquin Township, and unincorporated McHenry County.
Defenders Booth a Big Attraction at County Fair

By Diane Ayers

This year, the Defenders had one of their biggest and best displays ever at the McHenry County Fair, thanks in no small part to the many members who pitched in to help. We had some wonderful exhibits this year, thanks to Cindy Skrukrud, Jamie Beggs, Sue Jensen, Sami Dahlgren, and Randy Schietzel. Who helped to build some creative and engaging displays. Check out the photos on our Facebook page to see how nice it looked. Volunteers who helped to staff the booth during the fair’s 5-day run included Nancy Schietzel, Roy and Sylvia Asplund, (shown in photo), Phyllis and Roger Close, Kim Willis, Suzanne Kushner, Jim Wigman, and Jim Donato. Roy Asplund helped with set-up and Ed Ellinghausen was there to help us take it down. We had so many good helpers that I may have forgotten someone. If so, it’s my memory, not your hard work, that’s to be faulted.

The fair was a great fundraiser for the Defenders and we would also like to recognize everyone who helped at the ticket booths: BJ Jones, Ann Beck, Don & Carol Larsen, Judy Thornton, Steve Newton, Adele Petersen, Wawanna Widoff, Esther Larson, Mary Forni, Elizabeth Fisher, Jack & Maurine Kaskel, Deb Chapman, Joe Starzynski, David Perez, Bill & Elizabeth Donato, Mike Eckert, Penny Mesinbrink, Chuck Dubsky, Julianne Page, Ray Fisher, Sue Jensen, Paul & Chris Rechten, Barb Donnelly, Beverly Meuch, Mary Beth Miller, Jim Wigman, Mary Lu Seidel, Dwight Dalton, Ed & Carol Ellinghausen, Jim Donato, Anne O’Donnell, Laura Leukauf, Wendy Sass, Mike & Stacey Iwanicki, Cathy Christensen, Jason Nosbaum, Jim Merrifield, Janisha Merrifield, Johnny Merrifield, Cheryl & Mike Lynch, Randy & Nancy Schietzel, Savannah Eisenmann, Lauretta Wolf, Kat Mitchell, John Darger, Lori McConville, Robert Murray, Pat Young, Mary Jo Healy, Dave Boger, Chuck Wiedmann, Claire Flavin, Myrna Nelson, Hamlet Fasliu, Sami Dahlgren, Jan Hervert, Steve Platt, Sam Starzynski, Seven Blume, Cindy Skrukrud, Tom von Geldern, Ray Fisher, and Tyler Donato. Thanks to everyone for our wonderful showing at this year’s fair!

Defenders Act as “Sweep” at Summer Parades

Sometimes it’s true—the good guys do finish last! This summer, the Defenders have appeared at the end of four local parades, taking our message, our bright green T-shirts, and our recycling collection bags to the streets. From Independence Day in Crystal Lake to Labor Day in Lake In The Hills, Defenders’ volunteers have acted as “sweep” literally, collecting a trail of water bottles and soda pop cans, while raising our visibility in a very creative way.

Recycling is how the Defenders began, and we’re still really good at it. On July 5 in Crystal Lake, we collected 35 bags of recyclables with help from the folks at Falcon Recycling. Our red recycling trailer drew applause at Fiesta Days in McHenry and Founders’ Days in Algonquin. And Ken Santowski brought his own van to help at the Summer Sunset parade in Lake In The Hills.

But we couldn’t have done any of this without those many volunteers who walked or biked along with us. For fear of missing someone, we won’t list you all, but you know who you are. Thank you SO very much for helping us “leave no trace.” Parade photos are posted on our Facebook page, where you can see the fun and enthusiasm these folks had.

There’s one more parade coming up. The Marengo Settlers Days’ parade steps off at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10 and, weather permitting, it should be one of the season’s best. We need volunteers, so if you can join us, call the Defenders’ office or just show up. This event also coincides with the international Global Day of Keeping (see page 8.)
The Defenders is all about people volunteering to help improve our environment and people who enjoy the opportunity to connect to others who share the same goals. It’s always nice when there’s an opportunity for us to gather, so thank you to all those who were able to attend our summer picnic on a beautiful evening at our Dean Street property on August 22. This was a new venue for our summer gathering, which over the past two decades and more has been a Corn Roast graciously and generously hosted by the Howenstines at their farm. Thank you Alice and Bill! We’re not roasting corn anymore, but it’s exciting to start a new tradition on our property, something we can all take pride in as Defenders’ members.

Welcome New Board Member, Mary Forni!
This summer Mary Forni from Cary joined the Board and jumped right into helping with fundraising projects. Mary was a teacher in Cary for 10 years where she involved her students in many environmental activities. In fact, she was honored three times by MCSEEP for her environmental efforts. Welcome, Mary!

As we welcome Mary we want to thank Cynthia Kanner for her two years on the Board. She’s busy with kids, but remains active with the Defenders as the “It’s Our River Day” coordinator and editor of NATURE Matters.

Use It Again Sale
The Defenders annual garage sale was housed in new digs this year, at the Algonquin Township Road District compound in Crystal Lake. Despite the heat of late July, we had many volunteers and shoppers alike! We would like to thank (in no particular order) Doug Close, Dwight Dalton, Alice Lumsden, Anne Basten, Roy Asplund & crew, Carolyn Payne, Nancy Schietzelt, Donna Ward, Mary Forni, Cathy Christensen, Jason Nosbaum, Randy Schietzelt, and anyone I didn’t have on my list - please accept my apologies, and let me know so I can add your name to our yearly volunteer hours count!

Volunteers:
Backbone of the Defenders
By Dwight Dalton & Nancy Schietzelt
"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."—Muhammad Ali

The success of the Defenders has always depended on the wonderful volunteers who have put in many hours of work. Even prior to having paid staff, Defenders’ members made an impact in this county, working to accomplish the missions of Preserving, Protecting and Educating. “Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve,” said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Records of volunteer hours were not kept until recently and even now many Board members, committee members and others spend time that isn’t recorded. In the first half of this year volunteer hours recorded were 918. By August 24, that number was 1,600 hours! Business sources calculate skilled volunteer time at $40 to $50 per hour. We are rich in many ways! As a Board member and long standing Defender, I can’t thank those who volunteer enough. Margaret Meade said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Not only do we sincerely appreciate all of our members who currently volunteer, we would love to have and need more volunteers. There are opportunities, both large and small, for members who have a desire to help with our mission. For those who have more time, our committees can always use your help in a variety of ways, from creating displays to giving presentations to community groups to shepherding a new project. If you would like to help, but only have a little time, preparing the newsletter for mailing, collecting recyclables in an area parade, or working at a fundraising event might be right up your alley. If you wish to take on a leadership role, our Education Committee is seeking a new Chairperson. Also, with a move to our new office, extra people will be needed to “man” the resale store. If any of these opportunities appeal to you, please call Diane or Christy at the office at 815-383-0393.
**Make a Difference Day - October 23**

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Water Resources Protection and Natural Resources Committees will host a habitat restoration event at the headwaters of the Kishwaukee River to cut out invasive species and remove trash from the area. The goal is to improve this area as habitat for native plants and animals. Volunteers are invited to “make a difference” on this date by joining in this effort.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at noon after a short hike to view the area. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and eye protection (sunglasses, etc.) and to park in the McHenry County Soil and Water District’s parking lot at the corner of Highway 14 and Dean Street in Woodstock. All necessary equipment as well as water and snacks will be provided.

To sign up to volunteer or to ask questions, please call the Defenders’ office at 815-338-0393 or email us at mcdef@owc.net. Come help us make a positive difference in the environment and enjoy some time outdoors!

**A Global Day of Doing - 10:10:10**

The movement **10:10** has joined forces with 350.org—a worldwide movement to call attention to the climate crisis—to coordinate 10:10:10, the biggest-ever day of positive action on climate change—Sunday, October 10, 2010. We want to send a message to our leaders: “We’re working, what about you?” If we can plant a hundred trees in McHenry County and if others can green up their homes, cut back on their driving, or cover the roof of a school with solar panels, surely our government can pass the legislation or sign the treaty that will confront the climate crisis before it gets worse. 10:10:10 will take a snapshot of a clean energy future—the world of 350 ppm—and show people why it’s worth fighting for.

People all over the world are ready to go to work. And in McHenry County, the Defenders are set to go to work planting ten trees on our Dean Street property at 3:30 p.m. on October 10, 2010. So, join us, and join the thousands of other organizations worldwide as we work as a global party. If you are able to plant with us, please call 815-338-0393 for more information.

**Tree Farm FUNdraiser Coming Up!**

Pioneer Tree Farm, owned and operated by Alice and Bill Howenstine, will be open for Christmas tree cutting for five days this year on November 26, 27, 28 and on December 4, 5. Defenders’ members, as in the past, will be able to volunteer for a day, with 10% of all tree sales for the season going to the Defenders. In addition, daylong volunteers earn themselves a Christmas tree, which they can cut that day or in the future.

All Defenders’ members interested in being part of this FUNdraiser who have a specific day that is best for them to volunteer are asked to call Alice or Bill at 815-385-8512. Mike Montes, our official “caller” for volunteers, will begin his calls in mid-October to fill in the blanks if you haven’t called with your preference or expressed your desire to work as yet.

**The Defenders Are Moving!**

The Defenders’ Board is excited to announce that we will be moving our office and book store/resale shop to the Knuth Building located on the west side of the Woodstock Square. This move will give us the opportunity to enlarge both our office and shop as we’ll be occupying two units on the ground floor of the building.

The expansion of the office space will be most welcome since it will allow us to have a meeting area and work space that can be utilized by volunteers working on projects in the office. Also, our Margaret Marchi Environmental Library will be able to occupy the space it deserves, including a welcome seating area for people interested in utilizing the books on site. In addition, for larger meetings or group events, we will be permitted to use a public space on the second floor of the building overlooking the square.

The book store/resale shop, which we have barely squeezed into our current location, will be able to expand, thus allowing us to more easily accept and sell books and resale items year round. Thanks to Knuth’s Office Supply we will have a nice looking sales counter and some shelving to use as we get started in the store. If you have nice household items or books that you would like to donate, please bring them to the store beginning about mid-October.

The move will take place during the month of October, so if anyone would like to help with that process, please call Christy at 815-338-0393 to volunteer. And, please keep an eye on the e-news and on our Web site for information about an open house/office warming coming up before the holidays. We’ll be excited for everyone to see our new office and store! Special thanks goes to Board Member Roy Asplund and Outreach Director Diane Ayers for locating this new site for us!
Advocacy & Education

Hackmatack - A National Wildlife Refuge in Our Backyard

Voice Your Support at USFWS Open Houses in October
By Cindy Skrukrud

The exciting possibility of a national wildlife refuge being created on the Illinois-Wisconsin border will take its next step in mid-October when the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) holds four public input sessions. USFWS wants to hear from area residents on what they think about the proposal. This is the chance for Defenders members and the many other supporters of the refuge to demonstrate to the Fish & Wildlife Service strong local backing for the refuge.

Over the last year, the notion to establish a national wildlife refuge in Northeastern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin has rapidly progressed from a brainstorm of a group of local residents (called Friends of Hackmatack) to a proposal under study by the USFWS. Encouraged by letters of support from the governors of both Illinois and Wisconsin, all four senators from both states, and key Congressional representatives, including Melissa Bean and Don Manzullo, the USFWS announced last April that they would conduct a feasibility study for the proposed refuge. They identified a 55-square-mile study area within McHenry and Lake counties in Illinois and Walworth, Kenosha and Racine counties in Wisconsin. They are currently compiling information on the natural resources of the area, as well as people’s attitudes toward the proposed refuge, and anticipate releasing a draft recommendation for public comment in late spring of 2011. If the Service recommends a refuge be established, it will likely recommend a refuge of 10,000 to 30,000 acres made up of strategic purchases, which would link to 23,000 acres of conservation lands already protected by McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) and the Departments of Natural Resources in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

Friends of Hackmatack has dubbed the proposed refuge “Hackmatack” after the Algonquin Indian word for the tamarack tree. The IL-WI border lies at the southern end of the tamarack’s range, and a number of rare tamarack bogs remain in the study area. This glacially sculpted region also contains remnants of the oak savannas, tallgrass prairie, kettle marshes, and fens, as well as the high quality, spring-fed Nippersink Creek, which constituted the pre-settlement landscape of the area. This variety of habitat supports 109 species (49 birds, 5 fishes, 5 mussels, I amphibian, 2 reptiles and 47 plants) identified as Species of concern by the Midwest Region of the Fish & Wildlife Service. Species of concern are those which Service staff believes are in the need of concerted conservation actions. Consistent with the refuge’s primary mission to provide critical habitat for the nation’s migratory bird and fish species and to protect endangered plants and animals, the Hackmatack area has both significant wildlife values and the potential for habitat restoration.

The location of the proposed refuge also fits the Service’s urban refuge policy to establish refuges in or adjacent to urbanized areas in order to foster environmental awareness and outreach programs and to develop an informed and involved citizenry that will support fish and wildlife conservation. While refuges give wildlife top priority, they also welcome people to engage in hunting and fishing, wildlife observation and photography and interpretation and environmental education. The Hackmatack region is strategically located for refuge visitors from 12 million people who live in the metro areas of Chicago, Rockford, Milwaukee and Madison. In 2003 when the refuge system celebrated its 100th anniversary, Audubon magazine boasted that “a wildlife refuge is located within an hour’s drive of every major metropolitan area.” Yet the closest refuges to our area, the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Mayville, Wisconsin and the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in Savannah, IL, are both 150 miles from downtown Chicago.

A third motivation for establishing a refuge in the bistate area is North America’s biggest bird. The proposed Hackmatack NWR lies in the migration pathway of the flock of the federally endangered Whooping Cranes, which is being re-established through the efforts of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. This flock summers in Wisconsin and migrates to the southeastern United States every winter. In an innovative program begun in 2001, human-raised juvenile Whooping Cranes are added to this flock each year and are taught the migration route to Chassahowitzka NWR in Florida by
following Operation Migration researchers wearing crane suits and flying ultralight aircraft. Currently there are about 100 now-wild cranes in this eastern population. Lands within the Hackmatack region could serve as resting places for cranes, as well as other migrating birds. Whooping Cranes routinely stop at MCCD’s Glacial Park.

Friends of Hackmatack have also asked a key question of interest to local leaders: Does the idea of creating Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge make sense ecologically, economically and socially? To answer that question, Friends of Hackmatack partners’ Openlands and the Trust for Public Land commissioned a refuge viability study prepared by Fermata Consulting firm of Austin, Texas. The study states, “the benefits of the Hackmatack NWR initiative reach beyond conservation.” It reports that, on average, Illinois and Wisconsin residents spend seven to eight days a year watching wildlife and spend $36-$47 per day on wildlife-watching trips. The report concludes, “The proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge has strong potential to diversify and strengthen the local economy, expand recreational opportunities and tourist attractions, and ensure the continued survival of native species in the Chicago metropolitan area.” The full report can be found at www.openlands.org.

The backing for Hackmatack is strong, with many groups in both Illinois and Wisconsin signed on as organizational supporters (see the list on Friends of Hackmatack’s Web site at www.hackmatacknwr.org). The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County was an early supporter and serves as the Friends’ fiscal agent. Over 1,000 individuals have signed a petition in support of the refuge. The petition can be signed on-line at the Friends’ Web site.

It is very important that USFWS staff hear from area residents in their own words that they support the proposed refuge. Defenders’ members are encouraged to attend one of the four open houses and to tell Service staff about the natural features and places you love in our area and to share your ideas on how best to protect them. We have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to promote the beauty and natural resources of our region to the national stage. Show your support for the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge at one of the USFWS open houses on October 12 or 13. If you cannot make one of the input sessions, you can email your support to r3planning@fws.gov. The USFWS webpage on the refuge study can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatack/index.html.

Defenders’ Recycling Drives

What:
Collection of fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, and household batteries for recycling. The suggested donation for this service is .50 cents per pound of household batteries and .50 cents each for fluorescents. We will also be conducting a buy-back program for aluminum cans and other non-ferrous metals and will be accepting styrofoam pellets and bubble wrap. Come in and help keep these items out of the landfill.

When:
Second Saturday of every Month.

Where:
Woodstock: The Woodstock collection takes place on the second Saturday of each EVEN numbered month and is held in front of the Farm Bureau, 1102 McConnell Road in Woodstock, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

McHenry: The McHenry collection takes place on the second Saturday of ODD numbered months at the Metra Station Parking lot, 4005 Main Street in McHenry, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The McHenry collection will also pay for aluminum, brass and copper.
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For more information about becoming a
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124 Cass Street, Suite 3
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Membership Form

Levels of Membership

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Phone: ________________________________

Year moved to McHenry County: __________
Number of individuals residing in household: __________

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Please return completed form to:
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
124 Cass Street, Suite 3
Woodstock, IL 60098 OR
Join on-line at www.mcdef.org
Questions? Call 815-338-0393

Code: newsletterfall2010
# Calendar of EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## OCTOBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 6</td>
<td>“Green Wednesdays” at Dukes Alehouse, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 10</td>
<td>A Global Day of Doing - 10:10:10, at Dean Street Property, see page 8 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 12</td>
<td>Hackmatack Session, 4-8 PM, McHenry County Gov. Center Admin. Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 13</td>
<td>Hackmatack Session, 4-8 PM, Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 25</td>
<td>Make a Difference Day. See page 8 for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 3</td>
<td>“Green Wednesdays” at Dukes Alehouse, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 6</td>
<td>Bioneers Conference &amp; Green Living Expo at McHenry County College, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26-28</td>
<td>Pioneer Tree Farm FUNdraiser. See page 8 for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 1</td>
<td>“Green Wednesdays” at Dukes Alehouse, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4-5</td>
<td>Pioneer Tree Farm FUNdraiser. See page 8 for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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