



## Wind Energy

By Scott Kuykendall,  
Wind Energy Task Force

We hear more and more these days about how wind energy is being used to meet mankind's growing demand for energy, but what exactly is wind energy and how would it work in McHenry County?

Although access to affordable energy has transformed the lives of many of the world's people for the better, humanity's use of fossil fuels also has had negative consequences. For instance, the extraction and consumption of coal, gas and oil destroys land, pollutes water, poisons the air and is literally changing the chemistry of the world's atmosphere and oceans. Fossil fuels are also finite and over the past 150 years we have extracted the most accessible coal, gas and oil resources. From here on, extraction of these materials will be more costly to our environment, society and our pocket books. When nuclear power plants are operating safely they are able to produce relatively clean energy. However, nuclear energy also requires mining of finite fuel resources, produces waste that remains radioactive for tens of thousands of years and has the potential for globally disastrous consequences.

On the other hand, solar and wind resources are clean, abundant and renewable. Wind energy is a proven technology that is assuming a greater role in meeting our current energy needs and leading humanity to a more sustainable energy future. There are critics who argue that wind



Skystream Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine and house with solar panels- O'Connor Electric.

energy is too expensive compared to fossil fuels. However, fossil fuels are commodities whose value is constantly fluctuating through boom and bust cycles. Individuals and businesses that invest in wind energy can rely on stable, fixed energy costs over a long period of time, avoiding the high costs and volatility of conventional energy prices. The cost of fossil fuels is also held artificially low because many of the "external costs" (such as environmental damage, health problems and military defense) are passed on to the public. If the full costs of fossil fuel extraction and consumption were reflected in the price we pay, clean, renewable energy would look like a bargain in comparison. The greatest limitation to wind energy is that it is only a viable energy source when the wind is actually blowing, and currently there is no way to store electricity on utility scale. Therefore, wind energy is currently a supplement to conventional energy systems. However, the potential for wind to offset fossil fuel use is enormous, and we have barely begun to draw upon that potential.

Wind energy is not completely free of environmental consequences. Many people are concerned about the impacts wind turbines may have on birds and as more wind turbines rise up on the landscape, bird mortality will undoubtedly increase. However, most environmental professionals agree that any bird mortality resulting from wind turbines will be minor compared to the bird mortality that already occurs from other sources, including household cats and building collisions. Another concern is the impact on bats, whose lungs can be damaged just by traveling close to the air pressure changes around wind turbines. The most serious environmental impacts may not have anything to do with the turbines themselves but rather with the roads needed to install and maintain the system. Additional issues to consider when locating a turbine are noise and light

### About EARTHConnect

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](mailto:mcdef@owc.net).

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### 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.

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flicker. Light flicker occurs when a turbine is backlit during sunrise or sunset and casts a “flickering” shadow from the spinning propeller blades. With any of these issues, careful consideration should be made to the natural and cultural resources surrounding a potential turbine location. Of course, not moving to renewable energy sources and continuing to consume fossil fuels will have the most catastrophic environmental consequences.

The essence of modern energy is the conversion of various forms of energy into forms of energy more useful to meet our needs. In its broadest sense, wind is actually a form of solar energy. Winds are created from the uneven heating of the atmosphere that occurs when the sun’s energy reaches the earth’s irregular and rotating surface. Air pressure systems then develop as the rising hotter air interacts with sinking cooler air, producing winds that move at a variety of speeds. The movement of wind contains kinetic energy (motion energy) that can be harvested and converted to mechanical energy or electrical energy.

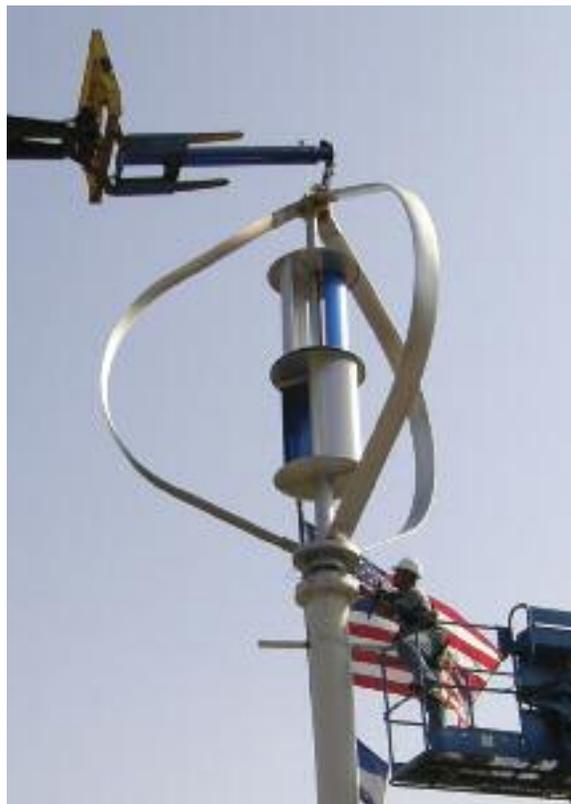
For over 5,000 years humans have harvested the wind using sails to propel ships and for the past 1,300 years have used windmills to mill grain and pump water. Today’s wind harvesting methods use turbines to convert the wind’s kinetic energy into electrical energy. Modern turbines have blades that spin in the wind, converting kinetic energy to rotational energy. The blades spin a shaft leading to a generator that converts the rotational energy into electrical energy. The electrical energy can then be used to power our homes, businesses, schools, and vehicles.

Wind turbines come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes but typically fall into one of two categories: horizontal axis wind turbine or vertical axis wind turbine. The most recognizable turbines are the horizontal axis, which have blades similar to an airplane propeller that face into the wind and spin perpendicular to the ground. As long as the blades are consistently facing the wind, the horizontal turbine is the most efficient system for converting the winds kinetic energy to electrical energy. However, winds do not always come at a steady speed or from a consistent direction. The general rule is that the taller the wind turbine, the more consistent the wind and the more energy produced. Winds at lower altitudes or in urban areas can be especially volatile, fluctuating in intensity and blowing from many directions. This is where vertical axis turbines can be most useful since they are able to capture winds from any direction.

The horizontal axis turbine is the most common type of turbine and is typically seen in small-, medium- or large-sized systems. Small-sized wind turbines can be seen on rural properties around McHenry County where they help residents be more resilient by providing much of their own energy needs. The wind turbine at Other World Computing in Woodstock is an example of a medium-sized system that provides energy for the business and may enable them to sell excess energy back to the utility. Large wind systems are typically designed solely as a utility to produce electrical energy for sale to the power grid.



*Skystream Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine, O’Connor Electric.*



*Vertical Axis Wind Turbine install at Claredon Hills Middle School, New Edison Energy.*

# Watershed Planning's Final Report



By Lynn Rotunno

Recognizing the need and opportunity for wind energy in McHenry County, a Wind Energy Task Force was established to write a model Wind Energy Ordinance. The purpose of the Ordinance was to encourage “the development of alternative energy sources in appropriate locations, while protecting surrounding property owners and the environment, and minimizing potentially adverse impacts on the community.” Another goal was to create a Wind Energy Ordinance that could be easily modified and adopted by municipalities and neighboring counties. The Task Force included members of the county staff and approximately 12 county residents, including staff from neighboring cities, concerned citizens, wind energy professionals and members of the environmental community.

The Task Force members met monthly and invited guest speakers to discuss the technical, environmental and business aspects of wind energy. After a year of planning, preparation and refinement, a draft Ordinance was completed. The Ordinance is simple and straightforward, clearly identifying what is required to develop wind energy systems in McHenry County. Without being overly prescriptive, the ordinance addresses topics that ensure wind energy systems are constructed to industry standards, will operate safely, and will be properly disassembled at the end of their useful life.

Environmental concerns are also addressed in the Ordinance, with special requirements for mid-size and large systems. For instance, on towers secured with guyed wires, the wires must be equipped with bird flight diverters or high visibility markers to reduce the risk for bird collisions. Consultation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is required to provide the best available information for mitigation of any potential impacts to wildlife and habitat. Additionally, for mid-size and large systems within 500 feet of a McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) property, the applicant must contact MCCD about the proposed project. The applicant must also allow MCCD the opportunity to work with the applicant to mitigate any potential wildlife impacts. Issues relating to wetlands and soil erosion are covered under the county’s existing Stormwater Management Ordinance.

The Wind Energy Ordinance has been presented to the McHenry County Board, and it will be included as part of the McHenry County Unified Development Ordinance that is currently being completed. We are very fortunate to have some very skilled wind energy professionals working in McHenry County. Hopefully, with a well written Wind Energy Ordinance, an increased understanding of wind power, and a desire for clean renewable energy, the wind power industry in McHenry County will be kept busy for years to come.

There is no single solution to achieving a sustainable energy supply but wind energy provides some of the most promising opportunities for our future. 🌱

*Scott Kuykendall was a member of the Communities Wind Energy Task Force during the development of the McHenry County Wind Energy Ordinance.*

For over a year, The Defenders have reported on the progress of a local effort to develop a watershed plan in southeastern McHenry County to protect local streams, lakes, wetlands, and other natural resources. We are pleased to announce that the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Action Plan is now complete and will be a guide to protecting local water quality and watershed health.

The watershed plan was developed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) with input from local planning participants. We wish to thank the over 130 community members who contributed their time and invaluable planning information, and who worked together to identify local water resource priorities.

A watershed is an area of land that drains water into a common place like a stream or lake. Because water is a resource shared by many communities, watershed planning provides opportunities for community members from many jurisdictions across a watershed to work together, identify common challenges, and develop collaborative solutions to address those challenges. In addition to protecting water quality, implementation of a watershed plan can also help to minimize community flood damage, protect groundwater resources, preserve natural areas, and help restore healthy aquatic life.

The Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek drain to the Fox River, an important source of wildlife habitat, recreation, and drinking water for downstream communities. These watersheds are home to over 26,000 community members and significant natural resources, including five dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, such as Oakwood Hills Fen and Wingate Prairie. Working to protect the watersheds supports healthy local communities and helps to restore the Fox River. Watershed planning is being utilized throughout the county and across the U.S. to help protect this precious resource. Although the plan is written specifically for two subwatersheds of the Fox River Basin, many recommendations are beneficial throughout the county and elsewhere.

The watershed plan outlines projects and planning recommendations to meet goals established by community participants. These goals include: protecting water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands; protecting groundwater quality and quantity; restoring natural areas and increasing biodiversity; increasing public knowledge of watershed protection practices; and establishing an ongoing community group to help to implement the plan. For more information, you can download the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Action Plan at [www.silversleepyhollowwatersheds.org](http://www.silversleepyhollowwatersheds.org).

A major benefit to communities and the environment that will result from this planning effort is access to state and federal grant funding to help local groups and individuals implement

recommended projects. Community members will now begin to work toward implementing the plan and have already established a watershed group to coordinate efforts. The group, called the Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition, meets regularly and includes participants from across the watersheds.

Projects to protect and improve water quality and watershed health are core recommendations in the plan and have been developed with the input and support of local community planning participants. The actual implementation of these projects will depend on the availability of funding and other considerations. Several participants wish to apply for grants within a year to help fund implementation. One proposed project is to stabilize streambanks and lake shores and revegetate them with native plants to help reduce erosion. Several natural area restoration projects are also proposed that involve wetlands and a savanna. Wetlands help to remove pollutants from stormwater entering streams and lakes, store flood waters that could otherwise cause damage in communities, and provide wildlife habitat. Projects are also recommended to naturalize stormwater detention basins by replacing turf grass with native plants to help remove stormwater pollutants, such as lawn fertilizers entering from nearby subdivisions. This practice can help reduce long-term maintenance costs and provide new wildlife habitat. Projects have been proposed to replace conventional parking lot surfaces with more permeable pavement, which promotes groundwater recharge, helps prevent local flooding, and reduces stormwater pollution in streams and lakes. To support the plan's public education goal, proposed projects include a watershed education exhibit at a nature center and installing educational signs in natural areas.

Many of the project recommendations emphasize adopting practices to help keep water where it falls and reduce the amount of pollution entering streams and lakes. Practices in urban areas include rain gardens, rain barrels, vegetated swales, and constructed wetlands. On agricultural land, practices include minimizing soil erosion and reducing the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and animal waste entering our streams and lakes. Future projects should also be identified to achieve the plan's goals.

The watershed planning effort provided an opportunity for CMAP to assess portions of the watershed streams with the assistance of local volunteers. This study helped to identify some of the project recommendations. However, additional assessment of streams, lakes, and wetlands should be conducted to help measure successes and identify more beneficial projects in the near future. Studies should include surface water and groundwater quality monitoring and biological assessment. The Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition has already initiated efforts to monitor water quality in watershed streams. Ongoing measurement of groundwater levels should be established to help identify aquatic ecosystems that may be at risk due to groundwater withdrawals.

A cohesive set of policies and planning initiatives are needed in order to effectively protect water resources. Therefore, the plan also includes these types of recommendations developed with the input of planning participants for local government agencies to adopt or expand on in the near future.

A proposed green infrastructure network that consists of interconnected natural areas, open spaces, streams, and buffers would naturally manage stormwater, provide wildlife habitat, minimize flooding, and improve water quality. Incorporating conservation design principles for new developments would preserve the natural features of land being developed and provide many benefits to residents, including recreational opportunities. Recommendations to protect groundwater resources include promoting water conservation and practices to prevent groundwater contamination. For example, reducing the use of road salts can prevent chloride contamination that is a growing concern in this region for both groundwater and surface water.

There are many ways you can help to protect our watersheds while saving time and money. You can landscape with deep-rooted native plants to increase water infiltration, decrease water use and the need for fertilizers, and reduce lawn maintenance. You can protect water quality by minimizing the use of lawn chemicals and salt on driveways and sidewalks, and septic systems should be inspected regularly. Properly dispose of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals by bringing them to a local hazardous waste facility (see McHenry County *Green Guide* for more information). To conserve water and reduce water bills, fix faucet and toilet leaks and replace your sprinkler system with a water-efficient one that includes a moisture or rain sensor and an automatic timer. Help capture and reuse rainwater and reduce stormwater pollution by installing a rain barrel at home and planting a rain garden. And finally, participate in your local watershed group!

Watershed community members working together is critical to put this watershed plan into action. The Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition has formed to support implementation of the watershed plan and future planning initiatives. The Coalition has already begun three projects, two of which are aimed at educating the public about the watershed and what they can do to help protect it. With the cooperation of the Crystal Lake Public Works Department, signs are being made and will be placed at key locations marking stream crossings and watershed boundaries for both Silver and Sleepy Hollow Creeks. Also, in March the group conducted a seminar for public officials and staff, homeowner associations, and property managers called, *Managing Natural Common Areas*. The seminar was hosted by the Crystal Lake Park District, with speakers provided by Pizzo and Associates and Landkeepers, Inc. The third activity involves collecting water quality data from both creeks in collaboration with the Fox River Study Group.

If you would like to help with these or future projects with this particular Watershed Coalition, please contact The Defenders. In addition, The Defenders and other organizations are currently working to support implementation of other watershed plans across McHenry County, such as The Woods Creek Watershed Plan. Please contact The Defenders to find out more about work being done in your local watershed. 🌱

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Recommends New National Wildlife Refuge on the Illinois-Wisconsin Border

By Cindy Skrukrud

Breaking news! On March 21 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced they have completed their two-year study and are recommending that a new National Wildlife Refuge be established in McHenry and Walworth Counties! The Fish & Wildlife Service is recommending refuge lands, which would link with and expand on existing lands already protected by the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) and Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. Their aim is to provide large blocks of habitat for migratory birds and endangered species, including species like Dickcissel, Henslow's sparrow and short-eared owl, which nest in restored prairies, the savanna-loving red-headed woodpecker, and wetland-dependent species like the pied-billed grebe, least bittern and the federally endangered Whooping crane. The USFWS is soliciting public input on the proposed refuge until April 27. Two open house events to learn about and submit comments on the Service's recommendation will be held on: **Tuesday, April 3** from 5 to 8 PM at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park, Route 31 and Harts Road; Ringwood AND **Wednesday, April 4** from 5 to 8 PM in Genoa City, Wisconsin at the Brookwood Middle School, 1020 Hunter's Ridge Drive.

Defenders' members are encouraged to attend the open houses and voice support for the refuge. This is our chance to showcase the beauty of our area on the national stage and to preserve vital habitat for the benefit of both wildlife and future generations of Americans! Detailed information can be found at the USFWS website at [www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatak/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatak/) and the Friends of Hackmatak site at [www.hackmataknr.org](http://www.hackmataknr.org). To send the USFWS an email in support of the refuge, use <http://bit.ly/Hackmatak>. Go Hackmatak!! 🌱

## A Changing of Board Members

By Nancy Schietzelt

The Board would like to thank Kim Willis for her years of service on the Board and her work with land use planning on our behalf. Kim ended her term on the Board in December prior to her move to Michigan in January. Kim is now Development Associate with WMUK Radio, an NPR affiliate at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. We wish her great success in her new location!

New to the board is Sue Jensen, a resident of McHenry County for the past 14 years, after moving here from Minnesota with her husband and three children. Sue loves being outdoors, hiking, bird-watching, and camping, and feels compelled to do her part to make sure the quality of our environment remains high. In fact, her first

involvement with the Defenders was with our monthly recycling drives, where she is now a very active volunteer. Sue is an art teacher in Crystal Lake District 47. As a result, she has donated her talents to the Defenders by creating signs and displays for several years, as well as being the creator each year of the Defenders' booth at the County Fair.



*New board member, Sue Jensen.*

Sue has now taken on a new role as a Defenders' board member. She says she is looking forward to sharing the talents she has been given for a cause she believes in. She is excited to be involved with a great group of people who share a passion for the environment.

**Welcome New Members!**

Virginia & Dennis Brightwell	Mike Mrachek, Epic Cycle and Fitness
Susan Garcia	Nicky Obenauf
Shawn Green	Cheryl Perrone
Debra & Randy Hillstrand	Matthew & Anne Rogers
Jeff & Denise Jordan	Denise Romeo
Pete Koenig	Scott Summers
Duane Lahti	Mary & Norio Tanabe
Karen Lavin	Melissa Whittinghill

**SHOP THE SPOT!**

**The Green Spot**  
Gifts and a wide selection of books.

**Open 11 AM - 4 PM, Tuesday through Saturday.**

*110 S. Johnson Street  
Woodstock*

# Local Food Assessment

By Lenore Beyer-Clow, Openlands

Many of us eagerly await the time to purchase vegetables from farmers' markets and talk to our local farmers. An effort is currently underway to look behind the vegetables and understand how a vibrant local food system in McHenry County can support farmland protection, economic development, and provide fresh healthy food. Led by Openlands, The Defenders and other organizations are participating in the McHenry County Local Food and Farmland Task Force, which is conducting an assessment that analyzes the production, supply, and demand for local food in the county.

The assessment, due to be released this summer, will also include recommendations for policies that might reduce barriers or provide incentives to make a local food economy viable and result in agricultural land protection. Look for more information on the assessment in the summer edition of the The Defenders' newsletter. In the meantime, please visit the McHenry County Food and Farmland Taskforce Facebook page or go to the following link to take a consumer survey on local food: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/JZQQFRB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JZQQFRB).



Founded in 1963, Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives.

[www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org)

Sunday, April 15



## Be part of it

...and support The Defenders with your walk or run. Join First Vice President, Joe Starzynski, and other Defenders' board members for a fun time and good cause! The 5K walk/run will take place in McHenry's Corporate Park on Corporate Drive. Walkers and runners will gather donations/pledges to support their desired charity or simply participate in the event. All ages are welcome to come out and join the community in supporting volunteerism! See [www.thehumanrace.org](http://www.thehumanrace.org) for details and registration.

**When registering, don't forget to select your charity:  
The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County!!**

Saturday, April 21



### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2012

Saturday, April 21  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Bevan Road, Crystal Lake  
Join McHenry County Conservation District and  
the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County —

**HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING DROP OFF:** A variety of items will be accepted for recycling, including cardboard boxes, batteries, fluorescent tubes, and color printer toners. Check out our website for a complete list of accepted items and any associated drop-off fees.






Children make a globe from recycled paper

- Live music: Originals - Square Urban Music, 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- Joe Kelly's "Let's Go Outside" environmental songs for all ages
- Puppet shows at 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.
- Join in a guided nature hike at 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
- Help out on a restoration service project.
- Get your Earth Day 2012 Patch. Youth group members can do activities and earn the patch at a reduced cost.
- Enjoy hands-on games, crafts and storytelling.
- Over 20 Environmental Exhibits
- Food and Beverage Vendors or bring your own "No waste" picnic lunch.

Please see calendar on back page for all of our upcoming events!

The Defenders thanks the following list of organizations and businesses that contributed items to the raffle and silent auction at this year's annual membership meeting. See full story next page.



- Benedict's La Strata Restaurant
- Clix Gift Shop
- Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
- Countryside Nursery
- Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Crystal Lake Health Food Store
- Dukes Alehouse and Kitchen
- Green Box Boutique
- Expressly Leslie Vegetarian Specialities
- Kaleidoscoops Ice Cream Parlor
- Pablo's Mexican Restaurant
- Read Between the Lines
- The Backdrop
- Thomas Tails Natural Pet Products
- Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee

# Annual Membership Meeting

By Cynthia Kanner

The Defenders' 42nd annual membership meeting and dinner saw the organization at a new venue with a catered dinner at Loyola University Chicago Retreat and Ecology Campus on Country Club Road in Woodstock. Loyola's newly acquired campus is an environmental destination in itself, and it was fitting to hold the meeting where the pursuit of land restoration, sustainability and environmental education are at the forefront. In fact, the welcome was shared by Defenders' President, Nancy Schietzelt and Vice Provost of Loyola University, Nancy Tuchman, an aquatic ecologist by training.

Nancy Schietzelt welcomed everyone with a warm message that 2011 was a good year for The Defenders. The organization played a role in moving forward the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin and was the recipient of McHenry County's Green Award for organizations. Many collaborations reflected a year of successful partnerships and ongoing environmental pursuits, including the watershed planning process and transportation planning. Collaborating organizations, such as The Lou Marchi Total Recycling Institute, MCCD, McHenry County Transition, The Community Foundation, McHenry County Health Department, and Woodstock H.S.'s Green Club, are some of the partnerships that help us all to fulfill our mission of protecting and preserving the environment.

While students in botany and other sciences will head to Woodstock for summer classes, Nancy Tuchman also discussed Loyola University's plan to incorporate an environmental class within the University's core curriculum so that young adults leave college with an understanding of the environment. For the newly acquired property in Woodstock, one of the retreat's goals is to go off grid and serve as a demonstration in net-zero energy consumption. The site is looking at geothermal energy and possibly solar and wind as well.

Students who attend summer courses will learn first hand about sustainability and will be active in helping to restore the land's native oak/hickory savanna and wetlands. Nancy's son, Alex, works at the retreat as a chef and will use vegetables planted by students on location in his recipes to demonstrate sustainable agriculture.



Loyola university Vice Provost, Nancy Tuchman and son, Alex.



Roy Asplund, recipient of "The Volunteer of the Year" award.

This year during the awards portion of the meeting, Roy Asplund graciously accepted the Volunteer of the Year award for his dedication to The Defenders' ongoing book sales and management of The Green Spot store. In addition, his leadership in initiating The Defenders' role in the Knuth liquidation sale resulted in thousands of dollars of raised funds, allowing The Defenders to end the year with a net gain.



Members and friends enjoying the evening!

The Theta Award this year was given to the City of Crystal Lake for its part on several environmental fronts. The City's Engineering Department is applauded for installing bike lanes along Dole Avenue and for giving incentives to residents who



L to R: Carolyn Schofield, City Council Member, Liz Maxwell from Planning and Development and Erik Morimoto, Head of the Engineering Division, Crystal Lake.

purchase rain barrels for their homes. Establishing rain gardens was yet another goal met. Crystal Lake played and will continue to play an important role in the watershed planning process in the area.

The Defenders also welcomed Tim Loftus, an environmental geographer, to the podium. Dr. Loftus is a Principal at CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning). He highlighted the need to understand water planning as a public health issue and to consider water more holistically. As he stated that evening, "It's all the same water." Dr. Loftus also discussed the difficulties of dealing with non-point source pollution and discussed the close relationship between impervious surfaces and water quality. His recommendation for water issues is a "bottom up" approach in planning and then to "stitch together" those plans. He also voiced the need to bring together economic development, social equity and environmental stewardship in order to practice what we consider sustainability.



Tom von Geldern's beautiful handmade glass bowl is an example of the crafts available at the silent auction.

Thank you to those who donated crafts for the silent auction and "cup raffle," to the Thorntons for donating the cake, to Adele Petersen for the centerpieces and, of course, to those who bought raffle tickets and made bids! To her surprise, our president's Husband, Randy, won the 50/50 raffle. He quickly donated his winnings back to The Defenders! 🌱

# Fleming Road: Environmentally Sound Decision

By Lori McConville, Defenders' Board Member and Fleming Road Community Action Group Participant

After much hard work and perseverance, the Fleming Road Alliance, led by Lisa Rhoades and Emily Berendt of Bull Valley, and the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) formed by MCDOT, which includes The Fleming Road Alliance, The Defenders and many other concerned groups, have reached an agreement on how to rehabilitate Fleming Road. Fleming Road meanders through the sensitive Boone Creek watershed and is home to hundreds of historic oaks and a committed community.

After a presentation of three options, a consensus was reached to proceed with Cold In-Place Recycling to repair the deteriorating road. This method will stabilize the road base and construct a new asphalt top without disturbing the natural landscape and road profile that have proven to be effective in draining and filtering water and maintaining safety. This method makes it unnecessary to remove trees or acquire right-of-way from property owners.

The Cold In-Place method pulverizes and reuses the existing pavement, thus reducing costs of transporting and disposing materials outside the project. A "train" of construction equipment moves along the road, one lane at a time, and rehabilitates it, while staying within the existing road boundaries and matching the existing grade. The depth of cut into the pavement will vary from 4 to 6 inches depending on the stability of the base. Minor aggregate shoulder restoration will be necessary, but it will remain porous and with the original width and no curb or gutter. Many of the priority goals of community members are being met with this approach.

Before the work can begin more core borings will have to be done to determine the extent of areas where the base may not be stable enough for this process, and those areas will be addressed and refurbished. Hopefully, the core borings will confirm that the county can proceed with the chosen method and not prove it necessary to take another approach. Using the Cold In-Place method allows the road to be improved without adhering to the restrictions that would be in place if a new road was built. This is an advantage environmentally because constructing a new road means reengineering and changing the slope of the road in some spots. This would mean significant disruption to certain areas of the landscape, damage to trees and plants, and major change to the footprint. The cost is considerably higher as well, reaching upwards of \$3 million.

If the Cold In-Place Recycling method proves feasible, the finished road will have an 8-10 year initial pavement life projection, with a second phase of resurfacing in 4-7 years. The

process of recycling and refurbishing can be repeated into the future. The initial planning cost is estimated at \$790,000. Completing the process twice costs less than reconstruction and gets the life of the road close to the targeted twenty years with minimal environmental impact.

Making the decision to keep Fleming Road in its existing footprint and directing the Transportation Department to find a method to improve the road that respects the community's input, is an important directive from the County Board. It changes the overall thinking about what "improvement" means when fixing our roads. This decision places a priority on maintaining the road's natural design and proven water management, and safety record. It puts at the top of the list people and their right to define where they live. Fleming Road represents the characteristics of McHenry County and reflects the county's natural history and pioneering heritage. It takes time and focus to make these decisions and an active community that is willing to speak up. It's work worth doing. 🌱



*Fleming Road (County Highway V25) passes through Bull Valley and unincorporated McHenry County.*

## Coal Tar Sealants Reduction Act of 2012

Over the past five years, our County's Groundwater Task Force has been working to identify and address many water quality and quantity concerns in McHenry County. One such concern is Coal Tar Asphalt Sealants. Over the past year, many articles, links, and updates regarding the state of this harmful product have been made available, including any legislative actions that have been taken. On March 8, 2012, it came to the attention of the Task Force that Rep. Doggett from Texas introduced a Federal Bill called H.R. 4166, also known as the **Coal Tar Sealants Reduction Act of 2012**. This bill, if passed, will "amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, and use of coal tar sealants, and for other purposes." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. For more information on what is contained within this bill, please refer to an Internet search - "HR 4166 + Doggett".

## Styrofoam Pick-up, Algonquin

By Cynthia W. Kanner

It's a happy day when ideas become reality and thanks to the Village of Algonquin and Ken Santowski, our "polystyrene guy," there is an additional place in McHenry County where residents can drop off their clean Styrofoam for recycling. The location, also listed at right, is Public Works, 110 Meyer Drive in Algonquin. Meyer Drive is just off Route 62 near the Post Office.

It's also a happy day when what we strive for in protecting the environment comes together to benefit and educate kids. Ken was gracious enough to meet with the Eastview Elementary School Earth Club in February, at the club's monthly meeting, to talk about polystyrene and the importance of recycling it. The kids also enjoyed getting creative with Styrofoam to practice the art of reuse. They made everything from pillows stuffed with peanuts to frames. Families were also invited to bring Styrofoam to the school that afternoon for a mini "Styro-drive." So, Ken went away that day with some Styrofoam to recycle and the Earth Club went away with crafts and the important message that we should not leave the fate of polystyrene to the land fill! Thank you, Ken! ♻️



### Defenders' Recycling Drives

#### What:

Fluorescent tubes, rechargeable batteries, car batteries, button batteries, and block white styrofoam. Packing peanuts and reusable bubble wrap may be dropped off for no charge. We will also be accepting certain electronics, such as computers, phones, printers, toys, TVs and computer monitors for a donation to the Defenders. T/C metals in Crystal Lake has been friendly and helpful as can be when we bring aluminum or non ferrous metals to them. With metal prices up, this has been a steady source of income. Many folks have used the McHenry drive and donated their aluminum cans. Keep it coming!!

#### 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.

### Styrofoam Drop-Off

**Village of Algonquin:** Public Works, 110 Meyer Drive.

**Village of Lakewood:** Lakewood Village Hall, 2500 Lake Avenue, Lakewood Public Works garage, 6570 Haligus Road, Redtail Golf Course, 7900 Redtail Drive.

## Frigid Day Doesn't Daunt the Doers

By Dwight Dalton

On a super cold February recycling day in Woodstock, eleven crazy, dedicated, and wonderful volunteers showed up to work the The Defenders' Recycling Drive. With temperatures holding at barely 15 F and a strong wind, customers were greeted at their cars and materials were collected, sorted and anchored down. Styrofoam in huge blue bags begged to take off and sail across the parking lot. Ed Ellinghausen, Margaret Fox-Hawthorne, Sue Jensen and Mary Kanter fought to separate various types of Styrofoam and bubble wrap. Monster TVs, heavy computers, printers and monitors were loaded in a box truck. Household batteries were sorted with frozen fingers. Fluorescent tubes somehow were safely packed away in The Defenders' red trailer. Those that brought materials in were generous with their time, their thanks and their donations, which help defray the costs of keeping recyclables environmentally safe. Sue Jensen's large placard signs were placed out by Husband, Tom Jensen, on the road's edge and her large traffic flow arrows magically withstood the wind. Sue's coffee and cupcakes kept everyone alive as we ducked out of the wind and into the sunlight. Mary Kanter danced to keep warm and kept us all in good spirits. Her Son, Jim, along with Joey Gonsiorek and Poncho, provided muscle and kept Ken Santowski in motion loading his box truck. With as many as five cars waiting in line at times, we tended to customers as quickly as our frozen bodies could move. By noon the site was clean, the signs all packed away, and the truck and trailer closed up. And, our brave volunteers sought warmth to recuperate.

The day was typical of The Defenders' volunteer spirit of pitching in to make a hard task easy and fun. What a great group! ♻️

The Environmental Defenders  
of McHenry County  
*Green Business Partner Program*

Green Business & Civic Partners

**Adele Petersen, Realtor®**  
Crystal Lake

**Advanced Eyecare Clinic**  
Lake In The Hills

**Computer Recycling Center, LLC**  
Crystal Lake

**Copy Express, Inc.**  
Woodstock

**Crystal Lake Park District**  
Crystal Lake

**Essential Elements**  
Woodstock

**Expressly Leslie**  
Woodstock

**Falcon Waste & Recycling, Inc.**  
Woodstock

**Green Box Boutique**  
Woodstock

**Green Business Task Force  
Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce**  
Crystal Lake

**Hyperstitch, Inc.**  
Marengo

**McHenry Co. Dept. of  
Water Resources**  
Woodstock

**Roxy's Books**  
Woodstock

**Tarts & Truffles**  
Woodstock

**Woodstock Chamber of Commerce**

**Woodstock Farmers Market**  
Woodstock

**For more information about becoming a  
Green Business Partner please contact us!**

Environmental Defenders  
of McHenry County  
110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.mcdef.org

(815) 338-0393 ~ mcdef@owc.net

Please visit us at:  
[www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org)



**Photo  
of the Quarter**

*Blanding's Turtle is a state-endangered species in Illinois but is still found in the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge area.*

Send your photos of McHenry County nature or environment to: [ckanner@mcdefenders.net](mailto:ckanner@mcdefenders.net), subject line "photo of the quarter."



**Membership Form**

*Levels of Membership*

- Supporting – \$250.....
- Patron – \$100.....
- Organization – \$50.....
- Family/Basic – \$50.....
- Senior – \$25.....
- Student – \$10.....
- Other – Amount affordable to you at this time.....

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail #1 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Year moved to McHenry County: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of individuals residing in household: \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed.

Please return completed form to:  
**Environmental Defenders of McHenry County**

110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106  
Woodstock, IL 60098 OR

Join on-line at [www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org)

Questions? Call 815-338-0393



*Code: nwsltrSPRING2012*

Preserve

Protect

Educate

# Calendar of EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## APRIL

Wednesday, April 4  
Friday, April 13  
Sunday, April 15  
Saturday, April 21  
Sunday, April 22  
Tuesday, April 24

**“Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception** at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM  
**Natural Lawn Care Workshop**, McHenry Co. Gov’t Admin. Bldg. 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
**The Human Race**, 5K run and walk (see page 7 for details.)  
**Earth Day Celebration** - Prairieview Education Center, 11 AM to 4 PM.  
**Beer Fest At Duke’s**, 2-5 p.m.  
**Eco-Film Screening: “Fresh”** at MCC conference center. 7:00 PM

## MAY

Wednesday, May 2  
Saturday, May 19

**“Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception** at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM  
**Sleepy Hollow Creek Clean-up**

## JUNE

Saturday, June 2  
Wednesday, June 6  
Saturday, June 23

**Pancake Breakfast at Kishwaukee Headwaters** (Defenders’ property on Dean Street.)  
**“Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception** at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM  
**Nippersink Creek Canoe Trip** 

**SAVE THE DATES!!** July 28, Kishwaukee River Canoe Trip; August 19, Fox River Canoe Trip;  
September 15, 5th Annual “It’s Our River Day” celebration in Algonquin; October 20, Make a Difference Day



*Support The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County through workplace giving! For more information on how you can contribute to the Defenders call us at 815-338-0393!!*



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