The Path to Creating a Regional Trail: Ridgefield Trace

By Wendy Kummerer, McHenry County Conservation District

Ridgefield was one of the first towns to come into existence in the area; Route 14 was originally an Indian trail, also known as a “trace.” Thus, when it came time to name the Woodstock to Crystal Lake trail, Ridgefield Trace was born.

The journey of creating this regional recreational trail and community conduit has been over 20 years in the making. Although not quite ready to be dubbed “complete,” another large phase of Ridgefield Trace will be completed this fall. Bringing this trail from concept to reality has taken multiple construction phases. Ridgefield Trace is a paved trail that is currently in three distinct sections that offer residents a safe mode of travel, whether by foot, bike or rollerblade. Once completed in its entirety the trail will extend 7.75 miles.

Phase I opened in 2009. It is a 1.76-mile segment that travels east from McHenry County College and loops back. McHenry College serves as the anchor for this part of the trail, providing a substantial community entity and establishing the trail as a destination, an alternate travel route, and a true community connection for casual riders, college staff, and local students. In turn, having the college connection gave the project a unique aspect in the grant funding arena and thus spurred the attention of DNDR and IDOT who eventually aided in funding the trail.

Phase II travels 1.5 miles from Oak Street in Crystal Lake east to Walkup Road, and connects with Veteran Acres Park. Phases I and II travel along a ComEd right-of-way and are divided by a trail break at the Oak Street intersection with the active Union Pacific Railroad line. The District continues to work with Union Pacific and the City of Crystal Lake in developing solutions for a safe crossing and seeking funding for the completion of this critical link.

Phase III runs 4.5 miles from McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, northwest along Route 14 to West Lake Shore Drive in Woodstock. This section is being completed in conjunction with the Route 14 IDOT road widening project and is expected to be finished in Fall 2016.

Continued page 3
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County Green Business/Civic Members

American Ad Bag
www.adbag.com
800-382-6844
customerservice@adbag.com
1510 Lamb Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Advanced Eyecare Clinic
www.advancedeyecareclinic.com
5 West Acorn Lane, Lake in the Hills
847-854-0202

Algonquin/LITH
Chamber of Commerce
2114 W. Algonquin Road
Lake in the Hills, IL, 60056
847-658-5300
info@AlChamber.com

Artland Story Group
http://artlandstorygroup.org
815-354-4631
Woodstock

Alpine Accessories
www.alpineaccessories.com
9219 South State Rt. 31, Lake in the Hills, IL 60056
847.854.4754, sales@AlpineAccessories.com

Illinois State Senator Pam Althoff
www.senatoralthoff.com
815-455-6330 or 217-782-8000
pamela@pamelaalthoff.net

The Backdrop
106 Cass St, Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-3007

Computer Recycling Center, LLC
7510 Virginia Rd. Ste 2, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-455-6300
info@computerrecyclingcenter.net

Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
www.consciouscup.com
5005 Northwest Hwy, Ste 101
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-356-0115

Copy Express, Inc.
www.copyexpressyes.com
301 E. Calhoun St. • Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone: 815-338-7161.
copytalk@copyexpressyes.com

Crystal Lake Park District
http://crystallakeparks.org/
One East Crystal Lake Ave. Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.459.0680 • info@CrystalLakeParks.org

Falcon Waste & Recycling, Inc.
815-334-9609 or Toll Free: 877-667-4488
2 Kennedy Dr., Harvard, IL.
contact@falconwasterecycling.com

About Better Living: Lee Frisch
847-639-2564
lee@aboutbetterliving.com

Green Box Boutique
www.greenboxboutique.com
108 N. Benton St, Woodstock, IL 815-337-7303

Handmade On Main
http://handmadetonmain.com/
320 South Main St. Algonquin, IL 60102
847-458-1976

Hyperstitch, Inc.
www.hyperstitch.com
117 W. Prairie Street, Marengo
815-568-0590

Marvin’s Toy Store
www.marvinstoystore.com
64A N. Williams St. in downtown Crystal Lake
779-220-4179

McHenry County College
www.mcc.edu
8900 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake

McHenry Co. Dept. of Water Resources
2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098
815-334-4213

Napoli’s Pizza
napolisswoodstock.com
930 Lake Ave. near Rte 47, Woodstock
815-338-2430

Adelle Petersen, Realtor
www.adellepetersen.com
RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest
Woodstock, Crystal Lake, Huntley
815-355-5729

Pioneer Tree Farm
www.pionetterefarm.com
4614 Pioneer Road, McHenry

USAgain
www.usagain.com
West Chicago

Woodstock Chamber of Commerce
www.woodstockchamber.com
121 W. Calhoun Street, Woodstock

Woodstock Farmers Market
www.woodstockfarmersmarket.org
May through October
Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8AM – 1PM
Winter Market at the Fairgrounds

Please email listing corrections to:
cynthkanner@gmail.com

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For information, questions, comments on membership or address changes, please contact our office at:
110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106
Woodstock, IL 60098
(815) 338-0393
envirodefmc@gmail.com
www.mcdef.org

Like us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/McHenryDefenders

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EarthConnect | Spring 2016
Being so close to realizing a vision created 20 years ago is a testament to the District’s commitment and great community collaboration. Two important trail links that are in progress involve the McHenry County Division of Transportation and the City of Woodstock partnering with the Conservation District in 2015 to extend the trail another 1,400 feet to make up the gap to extend Ridgefield Trace to the City of Woodstock’s existing sidewalk at Lake Street. In addition, the City of Crystal Lake in cooperation with Crystal Lake Park District, the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission and the Conservation District are developing plans for an on-street bike route on Burning Bush Street through the southwest corner of Sterne’s Woods and back onto the ComEd Easement. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall. Once completed this link will provide the connection between two major recreational trail systems, Ridgefield Trace and the 26-mile Prairie Trail.

Ridgefield Trace project partners included McHenry County College, City of Crystal Lake, City of Woodstock, Crystal Lake Park District, McHenry County Department of Transportation, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Illinois Dept. of Transportation, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – CMA, Com Ed, the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission Chicagoland Paving Contractors Inc. and Baxter & Woodman.

Look for an article related to this story by McHenry County Bicycle Advocates in the Summer edition of EarthConnect.

Ridgefield Trace once completed will run 7.75 miles from Woodstock to Crystal Lake. A 4.5 mile section will be completed late this fall in conjunction with IDOT’s widening of Route 14.
The Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal: The REMI Model

By Rick Johnson, Citizens Climate Lobby, McHenry County Chapter

Once you understand the science behind climate change, what are you going to do about it? The overwhelming majority of scientists around the world agree that we have to reduce the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere and oceans. Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) has a solution that economists and scientists agree is the best first step that will work on reducing carbon. We need to put a price on it. We can’t let it continue wafting into the sky free of charge.

CCL’s plan is to get congress to pass a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend that is refunded 100% to the American public. That fee is applied at the source of the carbon: oil wellhead, coal mine, fracking site. It would start small--$10 a metric ton the first year. The effect at the gas pump would result in an increase of approximately 11 cents a gallon of gas, and about a penny increase per kilowatt hour of energy.

But here’s the piece that might make such a plan work with both sides of the congressional aisle. That carbon fee would be rebated back to American households. The first year average return would be around $30 a month. The carbon fee would increase $10 a ton per year for 20 years. And 100% of the fee would be returned to the public. Why does CCL advocate for the rebate back to households? Because the idea is becoming attractive to both Republicans and Democrats. Here’s why:

In 2014, Citizens’ Climate Lobby released a study from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) that examined the impact of a steadily-rising fee on carbon-based fuels with revenue from that fee returned to households in equal shares. REMI Study Highlights include:

- CO2 emissions decline 33% after only 10 years, and 52% after 20 years.
- National employment increases by 2.1 million jobs after 10 years, and 2.8 million after 20 years. This is more than a 1% increase in total US employment we don’t get without a carbon tax!
- 13,000 lives are saved annually after 10 years, with a cumulative 227,000 American lives saved over 20 years due to reduced pollutants in the atmosphere.
- $70-$85 billion increase in GDP from 2020 on, with a cumulative increase in national GDP due to F&D of $1.375 trillion.
- Size of monthly dividend for a family of 4 with two adults in 2025 = $288, and in 2035 = $396. Annually, this is $3,456 per family of 4 in 2025 ($1152 per capita–children get 1/2 dividend).
- Electricity prices peak in 2026, then start to decrease.
- Real incomes increase by more than $500 per person in 2025. This increase accounts for cost of living increases.

REMI also divided the nation into nine regions to determine the regional impact on the carbon fee and dividend. The Regional REMI Summary for the East North Central (ENC) Region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin) listed these highlights predicated by 2025: Despite the loss of $5 billion in coal and related industries, the ENC region still has a net gain of $19 billion, a net increase in jobs, and a substantial increase in population. The loss of 4,000 oil and gas jobs is outweighed by the 5,000 jobs added in motor vehicles, bodies and trailers, and parts manufacturing alone. Losses due to fewer coal plants are more than offset by growth in other industries, and this region has more lives saved than any other due to decreased pollutant emissions. Fee and Dividend is a clear winner for East North Central Region!

The biggest take-home from the Remi Study is that there is no economic argument against Fee and Dividend. It creates jobs, grows the economy, saves lives, and makes Americans richer. It does this while also reducing CO2 emissions to 31% below 1990 levels by 2025, and to 50% below 1990 levels by 2035.

U.S. CO2 emissions under F&D (yellow) and without a carbon tax (blue). F&D reduces US emissions to 69% of 1990 levels by 2025, and to 50% by 2035.

For more information and to join, please go to: www.citizensclimatelobby.org
BYOBAG Addresses Leaders of McHenry County; Advocates for County Wide BYOBAG Month and Future Local Ordinances

By Cynthia Kanner

On behalf to the BYOBAG committee of The Environmental Defenders, I had the opportunity to briefly address members of The McHenry County Council of Governments (MCCG) on Wednesday evening, March 23, at their monthly meeting, which was held in Algonquin, where our BYOBAG campaign began over two years ago. I was joined by BYOBAG supporters, including Melissa Hill, Director of Public Affairs & Government relations for Jewel-Osco; BYOBAG committee members, Barb Day and Michelle Dare; BYOBAG survey volunteer Marianne Fontes, as well as Defenders’ Board Member and Village of Lakewood Trustee, Ken Santowski.

The message to the group was simple: a recap of what we’ve accomplished and what our next steps should be. On the latter, we are asking that village leadership around the county help drive real change at checkout by adapting ordinances at the local level, such as a charge for plastic and paper bags, much like the Aldi stores in our communities do.

In addition to addressing MCCG members, the Natural & Environmental Resources Commission (NERC) of McHenry County, will meet on April 27 to consider a county wide month-long BYOBAG proclamation to be put forth to the full county board in the coming weeks.

As a result of the March 23rd meeting, The Village of Lake in the Hills, the very next evening, voted in favor of proclaiming May 2016 as BYOBAG month in their town. So, if you plan to shop in LITH, please BYOBAG! In Woodstock, a vote will go before the City Council proclaiming BYOBAG, possibly for the remainder of 2016. Further, our BYOBAG message is catching on regionally, and with the dedication of Abby Goldberg, well-known as Activist Abby, Lake County will proclaim April 2016 BYOBAG month in their county. Thanks to our volunteer graphic artist and son of BYOBAG committee member, Becky Walkington, Will Walkington has created a logo for Lake County. The environment knows no borders and we hope this is the beginning of a Northern Illinois BYOBAG effort!

BYOBAG remains a doable and smart alternative to using single-use plastic bags made from fossil fuels, a non-renewable resource, and can be the catalyst for changing consumer behavior on other single-use items, such as Styrofoam takeout containers, bottled water and coffee cups.

Winter Education and Advocacy Efforts

By Nancy Schietzelt

The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during Winter 2016 in addition to other activities that are covered in more detail in this issue. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make these efforts possible!

• Continued to facilitate monthly Green Drinks events.
• Worked as part of the Bioneers committee, coordinated by the MCC Sustainability Center, to plan and carry out the Bioneers’ Speakers Series.
• Continued our participation with the McHenry County Health Department’s Solid Waste Task Force.
• Provided information about recycling during a program on the Harvard Radio Station.
• Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.
• Provided updates about our BYOBAG Campaign and our electronics recycling efforts to the County Board’s Natural and Environmental Resources Committee.
• Continued facilitating the Silver and Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition.
• Began planning activities for the Monarch Initiative in collaboration with the Friends of Hackmatack.
• Distributed environmental information at the Natural Landscaping Seminar conducted by the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee.
• Continued working with the City of Crystal Lake and downtown businesses to facilitate recycling.
• Facilitated inclusion of projects in McHenry County watershed plans in the County’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.
• Continued providing the Northwest Herald with an Environmental Tip for weekly publication.
• Screened the documentary “This Changes Everything” about global climate change at MCC.
• Hosted the Watershed Roundtable to involve all watershed groups in the county in working on common goals to protect our water resources.
• Attended the first meeting of the Fox Valley Sustainability Network.
• Addressed an Algonquin area Girl Scout Troop on environmental issues and climate change.
Defenders’ 2020 Challenge: 500 New Members for Our 50th!

In the year 2020, The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County will mark its 50th anniversary. This is still four years away, but we’ve already begun a goal of attaining 100 new members yearly, beginning in 2015, to reach a membership goal of 500 new members by our 50th!! And, we all know how quickly time goes by.

You can help your organization reach this goal by simply asking a friend, colleague, neighbor or acquaintance to join. Whether he or she is a student who goes to MCC, a retired person who is looking to stay active in the community, a family or millennial – every member counts! And, we’re counting on getting to 500 new members to celebrate 50 years of preserving and protecting the environment in McHenry County.

In 2015, we welcomed 97 new members (pretty close), so we’ll be looking to better that this year, and subsequent years, until we announce that our goal has been reached at a special “50th Anniversary” Annual Membership meeting and dinner in March of 2020. We know we have set a lofty goal. But with your help, we believe we can achieve it!

The Membership Committee

New Board Member

New to The Defenders, but not to the county or advocating for the environment in the community, is Christine Kustra. She is very excited about the opportunities that lay ahead with what The Defenders plan to accomplish in the next months to years and impressed with what has been done thus far. She is honored to be among environmentally conscious-minded individuals that make up the Board, who strive to support many events and educational opportunities for the citizens of McHenry County. With a degree in Environmental Science from Lewis University, and extensive ecological restoration, research, and volunteer engagements, she hopes to continue to reach out and connect the thread between people and the natural environment that we depend on and affect.

Her goals are to improve transportation opportunities in environmentally conscious ways as well as tap into the young generation’s mindset and interests. Currently, Christine is working at Round Lake Area Park District and Red Buffalo Nursery, both of which allow her to educate through outdoor and ecology programs plus be involved with ecological restoration in the area.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2016

Guided Nature Hikes
Games and Crafts
Over 20 Environmental Exhibitors
Food & Beverage Vendors on site or bring your own “No waste” picnic lunch.
Carpool to the event with friends to enter the raffle for a free picnic shelter reservation.

Saturday, April 23 + 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake
The event is held both indoors and out and will go on rain or shine!

Musical Guests:
KEN LONQUIST with KEN ADLER
Two performances! 12:30 am & 2:30 pm

In conjunction with the Earth Day Celebration

5K ECO RUN! Competitive and Recreational Participants welcome!
Race starts at 10:00 a.m.
Register www.rotaryecorun.org

Proceeds benefit the Conservation District, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and Woodstock Morning Rotary Foundation
UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4—Pancake Breakfast

Join us for our annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, June 4th, at The Defenders’ prairie property. Beginning at 9AM, enjoy fresh made pancakes. Please bring a breakfast dish, fruit, muffins, etc., to share!

The Defenders’ property is part of the headwater stream for the Kishwaukee River. Randy Schietzelt will be collecting (and eventually returning) a sample of the fish and invertebrates that make their home in “The Kish.” These will be available for viewing at 8:30 a.m., or come earlier if you would like to try and help with the collection! Odds are you haven’t seen most of these species before in your life.

Location: Soil & Water District Building, 2222 S. Dean Street, Woodstock.
Please email the office at envirodefmc@gmail.com to RSVP.

June 23—It’s Movie Night!

“In the independent documentary film, Plastic Paradise, Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover the mystery of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in one of the most remote places on earth—Midway Atoll. Along the way she meets scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers whom shed light on the effects of our rabid plastic consumption.”

Luecht Conference Center
McHenry County College
Thursday, June 23.
7PM, followed by Q & A.
No admittance fee; donations welcome!

Sponsored by
The Environmental Defenders
and MCC’s Sustainability Center.

Green Spot 5th Anniversary

The Defender’s Green Spot Bookstore opened October 2010 in the Woodstock Square Mall. Run entirely by volunteers and using donated books, The Green Spot has achieved local success. In addition to keeping books out of landfills and encouraging reuse, the store generates steady income. Several of our volunteers have worked in the bookstore since the doors opened: Barbara Donnelly, Cathy Christensen, Jason Nosbaum, Nancy Schietzelt and Pam Johnson. Thank you to all the volunteers, past and present, who contribute to our success.

Welcome New Members!

Christine & William Batalden, Crystal Lake
Ann Bessette, McHenry
Patrick Connolly, Woodstock
Lee Frisch, Cary
Marla & Carlos Garrison, Naperville
Lawrence & Barbara Glowacki, Crystal Lake
Bethany Gola, Crystal Lake
Sally Harris, Crystal Lake
John & Susan Hudson, Woodstock
John Jocius, Summit
Patrick Kenneally
Sahara Kuiper, Crystal Lake
Christine Kustra, Cary
Joe Lewis, Cary
Lisa Maier, Holiday Hills
Gene McSweeney, Crystal Lake
Kayalia Mitchell, Woodstock
Laura Mitchell, Woodstock
Sean Morgan, Crystal Lake
Bart & Elisa Mueller, McHenry
Andrew Nuno, Crystal Lake
Amanda Ranieri, Wonder Lake
Rhoda Symons, Crystal Lake
Michelle & Bryan Thomas, Huntley

Spring & Summer Garage Sales

SPRING Garage Sale - May 19, 20 & 21
SUMMER Garage Sale - July 14, 15, & 16, 8AM to 4PM
3702 US-14, Crystal Lake
Both sales are held at Algonquin Township Road District and require volunteers to help set up prior to dates listed. Please contact the office at 815-338-0393 if you can help. Or, email us at envirodefmc@gmail.com Check our Web site for updates! www.mcdef.org
**PAST EVENTS**

## 2016 Annual Dinner & Membership Meeting

**Young Defender of the Year: Andrew Nuno**  
Andrew was honored for his commitment to sustainability and his above and beyond efforts to help the Sustainability Center at MCC reach its goals.

**Volunteers of the Year: Green Spot Volunteers**  
For their many hours of volunteering to sort, price, shelve, and sell books, thus making the Green Spot Used Book Store a financial success for the organization, as well as furthering our mission, the Environmental Defenders are proud to honor the Green Spot Volunteers.

**Government: McHenry County College**  
For their continuing efforts to operate the college in a sustainable manner, including adopting and implementing a Sustainability Strategic Plan which directs the college towards a greener campus, greener curriculum and greener community, the Environmental Defenders are proud to honor McHenry County College.

**Theta: Peace and Justice Ministry at Resurrection Catholic Church**  
For their efforts to build an environmentally conscious community that is working to bring the message contained in the Pope’s encyclical, “On Care For Our Common Home”, to a reality here in McHenry County, the Environmental Defenders are proud to honor the Peace and Justice Ministry at Resurrection Catholic Church.
From Grain Belt to Tundra

By Cynthia Kanner

Longtime member and canoeist, Neill Sachs, gave an entertaining and informative talk on February 25 about his roadtrip last summer from Illinois to Alaska and back again, with his wife Margaret. One of the things that struck me about his presentation was first: he’d done this trip before, over thirty years ago, and returned to some of the same spots! And two, he and Margaret tented nearly every single night, which is astonishing to me, because it’s work to put up a tent and cook, etc. I love camping, but vowed once to never set up camp for just one night and they did it for the entire summer, there and back, with the exception of a night or two at a hotel due to heavy rains and flooding. Neill described various biomes that they traveled through – prairie to mountain to boreal forest to tundra and some environmental issues that are impacting each biome. In all, the couple logged nearly 13,000 miles during their adventure.

The slideshow presentation was held at The Soil & Water District Building, whom we thank, and enjoyed by thirty-five Defenders’ members and guests, a wonderful audience for a Sunday afternoon.

We’ll look forward to more slide presentations from Neill in the future and we encourage everyone to attend this unique benefit of membership.

Annual Membership Meeting continued.

On Sunday March 13, 2016 members of The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County gathered at Crystal Park District facility, Park Place for our 46th Annual Meeting.

This year the event started at 4:00 pm with social time followed by a catered buffet supper. Silent Auction items were on display and members made bids while visiting with friends.

All those taking part in the buffet supper received a Defenders’ mug, thanks to an anonymous donor! Approximately 120 members and guests attended the event.

After supper, Defenders’ Board Vice President Lori McConville called the meeting to order. Board members and staff were introduced and the business portion of the Annual Meeting included reappointment of some Board Members and Awards presentation.

In a State of the Organization message, Nancy highlighted the many projects, advocacy efforts, accomplishments and collaborative efforts the Defenders have been involved in over the past year. Nancy also recognized and thanked all the volunteers on behalf of the organization. Board Member Ken Santowski provided an update on Electronics Recycling in Illinois, followed by the awards presentation.

The business portion of the meeting concluded at 6 pm and was followed by a program.

Our guest speaker was Kristopher Lah, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Chicago. Kristopher presented an update on “Threatened and Endangered Species in the Chicagoland Region.” Our area of Illinois is home to the highest diversity of plants and animals, as well as threatened and endangered species. The Chicago office is the national lead office for the recovery of the Hine’s emerald dragonfly, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, eastern prairie fringed orchid, and Mead’s milkweed. After the program, the silent auction winners and raffle winners collected their items.

Thank you to all the volunteers who planned and worked to make our Annual Meeting a success!

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Thank you to all the volunteers who planned and worked to make our Annual Meeting a success!

Have you been to Duke’s?

By Barb Day

Another of our member businesses is Duke’s Alehouse and Kitchen at 110 N. Main Street, Crystal Lake, IL 815-356-9980. Owner, Zak Dolezal, has been a tremendous contributor to the mission and participant in the goals and objectives of the Defenders. He has made his establishment available to many Defenders events.

Zak began his Culinary Training at his parents’ restaurant, Duke O’Brien’s, in 1998. His passion for cooking grew and led him to study the culinary arts at Kendall College in Evanston Illinois. After graduating from Kendall in 2001 he went on to get his Bachelor’s in Hospitality Management from Purdue. After graduating he worked at several restaurants and resorts throughout the Chicago area including Ixcapuzalco (Fine Dining Mexican Cuisine), Durty Nellie’s, Marriott Lincolnshire, Le Titi de Paris, Spring, and Mon Ami Gabi before returning to Duke O’Brien’s in 2004. Upon returning to Duke’s he brought with him his passion for sustainable ingredients and relationships with many farmers and producers. In August of 2004 Duke O’Brien’s closed and reopened as Duke’s Alehouse and Kitchen.

Duke’s is now a gastropub offering comfort foods and artisan sandwiches utilizing superior ingredients from local and sustainable farmers paired with an amazing selection of American craft brews and Belgian ales. Duke’s recently received its THIRD star from the Green Restaurant Association and is involved in many community activities and events including Green Drinks, a worldwide program for networking “green-minded” people. If you haven’t been there, you might want to check it out.
Recycling Drives Update

By Barb Day

After being closed for the first two months of the year, the Grand re-opening of The Defenders recycling drives took place on March 12, 2016, thankfully on a very nice day. We altered the traffic pattern and process to make it easier to remove the donated materials and to prevent lines of cars from backing up onto the highway. Electronics and Styrofoam were the popular items retrieved that day. 160 cars came through our drive that day. We collected half a semi-truck load of Styrofoam and filled the rest of that load and another semi with electronics, more than 6,000 pounds of electronics to be exact. As always we are very grateful for the help of our 22 volunteers and we can use more. The need for strong backs to heft heavy TVs and monitors is always present, but there were a lot of people bringing Styrofoam, which isn’t heavy but still slows down the process if no one is available to retrieve it from the donor’s car. Our collection of batteries, fluorescent tubes, VHS and cassette tapes, and CDs and DVDs continued in their usual quantities.

Our next drive in Woodstock will be held on April 9 at 2222 S. Dean Street at the Soil & Water District Building parking area. Our plan for the remainder of the year is to move these monthly drives around to other communities in the county. A drive is scheduled in Algonquin on July 9. Keep checking The Defenders’ Web site for updates on a drive to be held in your area.

News from the Waste Reduction Committee

The Environmental Defenders encourage businesses to look for ways to cut costs and increase environmental stewardship. Solid waste alternatives, such as recycling, can cut monthly waste management costs, which can add up to thousands of dollars saved each year.

The Defenders, along with their solid waste contractor, Ecossential Solutions, will provide complimentary Waste Stream Audits to assist small- to medium-sized businesses in McHenry County who want to begin recycling or composting programs.

Ecossential Solutions is an environmental consulting company that creates sustainable solid waste programs. Sustainable waste management programs can cut waste management costs for organizations 20-45% while increasing recycling rates.

The complimentary waste audit includes:
• Introduction Consultation
• Waste Stream Audit
• Waste Audit Summary Report
• How To Start: Small Business Recycling Pamphlet
• In person assistance from Ecossential Solutions Consultant, Teagen Andrews

If you are interested, please contact:
Ecossential Solutions Inc. 847-651-0429
teagen@ecossential.net www.ecossential.net
Environmental Defenders 815-338-0393
envirodefmc@gmail.com www.mcdef.org

At left, Alice Howenstine volunteers at the television collection area and Dwight Dalton, below, handles batteries.
Preserve

At right: Common Watermeal. This plant is composed of pale green, asymmetrical globes with no roots, stems or true leaves. It has the distinction of being one of the world’s smallest flowering plants and is a good food source for waterfowl. It is also eaten by some fish. When large floating rafts form, mosquito larvae can be prevented from reaching the surface for oxygen.

Protect

Educate

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, waste reduction, 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.

Membership Form

Membership makes a great gift!!

Levels of Membership

Supporting – $250
Patron – $100
Organization – $50
Family/Basic – $50
Young Professional/Millennial – $30
Student – $10
Senior – $25

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: $1,000

Other amount

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
Questions? Call 815-338-0393

Code: nwsltrSPRING2016
# Events & Activities

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

- **Wednesday, April 6**
  - “Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception — Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM
- **Saturday, April 23**
  - Earth Day — Prairview Education Center. Cosponsored by Defenders & MCCD. See page 6 for details.

### MAY

- **Wednesday, May 4**
  - “Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception — Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM
- **Thurs.-Sat., May 19-21**
  - Spring Garage Sale. Algonquin Township Road District. Details page 7.
- **Date to be determined.**
  - Solar Tour of MCC’s Shah Center. Details TBD. Please check your eNews.

### JUNE

- **Wednesday, June 1**
  - “Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception — Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM
- **Saturday, June 4**
  - Pancakes on the Prairie. Details page 7.
- **June 9-June 18**
  - Summer Book Sale. Details page 7.
- **Thursday, June 23**

### SAVE THE DATES:

- **July 6** Green Wednesdays
- **August 3-7** County Fair. We need LOTS of volunteers for this annual Defenders’ fundraising opportunity. See more details and call for volunteers in coming weeks.

### Tour of Gladstone Fen

- August 11th and August 12th at 6:00 p.m.
  - See eNews for details.

### Environmental Defenders’ guided kayak/canoe trips

- **Nippersink Creek** - Saturday, June 18. Contact: danwil126@aol.com
- **Rock River** - Contact Cindy Skrukrud for July date and details: csrukrud@gmail.com
- **Fox River** - Sat. August 20. Down south section between Wedron & Sheridan. Contact: Cynthia Kanner - cynthkanner@gmail.com
- **Kishwaukee River** - Sat. September 10. Contact: Neill Sachs - neillsachs@gmail.com

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**EarthShare**

“There is one environment, one simple way to care for it. It’s your world. Consider letting EarthShare help you take care of it. One contribution to EarthShare supports all the causes they represent, or you can give specifically to The Environmental Defenders.” [Call us at 815-338-0393.](tel:8153380393)