2017 Annual Report
Environmental Defenders
of McHenry County
A Message from our President

The year 2017 passed in a blur! It seems like the more we do to protect our environment in McHenry County, the greater are the opportunities for increasing our reach and our programs even further. So I believe that we have truly been “stepping up our game” over time. One of the reasons that we were able to do more in 2017 is because we increased the hours of our Outreach Coordinator, with thanks to the McHenry County Community Foundation. This extra help made a big difference in our ability to reach more people and connect with our membership. Several examples of our growth as an organization and in our programming in the past year are these:

- We increased the number of members in our business category and started programming for this group specifically.
- We doubled the number of members in our Young Professional/Millennial category over the past year and offered a program for the first time for that group.
- We began outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community in McHenry County by presenting a program on recycling and providing recycling containers at a Woodstock event. We will be continuing this effort in the future. Our membership brochure has also been translated into Spanish.
- Our Speaker’s Bureau provided increased programs about a variety of environmental topics to a dozen groups.
- Exploration of the possibility of having a community solar farm on our property was conducted and is continuing.
- Our BYOBag committee drafted an ordinance to share with all communities in McHenry County for the purpose of reducing the use of single-use plastic bags through an optional fee.
- We hosted our first interns, which was a learning process for us as well as them.
- Our Styrofoam recycling program was revitalized with two sites re-opening in Algonquin and Algonquin Township, with a third soon to open for the first time in Woodstock.
- Our grant funding increased as we became more knowledgeable about obtaining grants.
- Our hard work of advocating for the creation of a Water Resources Specialist for McHenry County resulted in the hiring of an employee in February.

Additional details of our 2017 accomplishments can be found in the reports of each of our committees in the following pages. Our committees are the lifeblood of our organization. It is through the joint efforts of these committees, our Board members, our Staff, and our many wonderful volunteers that we can accomplish all that we do to fulfill our mission. Speaking on behalf of the Board, I extend a huge thank you to everyone who plays a part in our success!

Nancy Schieztzelt

Cover photo by Ray Mathis. Border artwork by Sue Jensen.
Chairperson, Cindy Skrukrud

This committee meets monthly with the goal of protecting the water and other natural resources of McHenry County. This includes protection of both groundwater, our county’s sole source of drinking water, and our high quality lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Preserving and restoring the oak savanna and prairie habitats of our landscape is a priority along with ensuring that our communities are built and managed to sustain these resources.

Some of the highlights of our 2017 activities were:

- Helped with planning, served as fiscal agent, and distributed information about protecting our water at the McHenry County Water Forum.
- Removed trash and invasive species at the prairies we tend at our Dean Street site, at O’Brien Prairie, and at Triangle Prairie to improve these sites for pollinator habitat.
- Served as host organization for the Silver and Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition and lead organization recruiting volunteers for monthly Sterne’s Fen habitat restoration workdays.
- Helped to conduct the Spring and Fall Youth Groundwater Festivals organized by the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program.
- Conducted educational activities and distributed information about water resources protection at our Earth Day Celebration, the County Fair, the Friends of Hackmatack Monarch Family Fun Fair, and It’s Our River Day.
- Organized volunteer-led canoe/kayak trips on Nippersink Creek, the Kishwaukee River, and the Fox River.
- Organized a member trip to Boloria Meadows to learn about the results of restoration efforts at the site and view the wildflowers.
- Participated in the 2017 Annual Review of the McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to promote protection of our watersheds.
- Met with other members of the Steering Committee organized by CMAP to work on the Fox River Corridor Plan in McHenry County.
- Researched, planned, and met with solar energy companies about the possibility of establishing a community solar farm on our property.
BYOBag Committee
Chairperson, Cynthia Kanner

In 2017, the BYOBag Committee, which will slowly morph into a Plastic Reduction Program and take on other single plastic problems, such as straws and Styrofoam take-out containers, spent much of the year working on a draft ordinance/referendum geared toward placing a charge on plastic and paper bags. The draft has been shared with leaders in McHenry County towns and the committee continues to advocate for educating residents of the county as well as pursuing change at check-out with a .10 cent charge for single-use bags. As more town adopt such ordinances, such as Oak Park, IL, our hope is that in the year 2018 strides will be made in the same vane here in our county.

Transportation Committee
Co-chairs, Christine Kustra & Gary Kanner

A year and a half since the Transportation Committee’s revival, we have covered much ground! Our understanding and knowledge has grown together as we meet monthly. In 2017 we have accomplished the following:

- Updated Strategic Plan
- 1st members Bike Ride in Sept 2017 on the Prairie Trail
- McHenry County Activities Community Forum Participation
- IDOT Route 31 public hearing of Widening Plan Participation
- Crystal Lake Sustainability Participation
- Attendance at Village of Algonquin Board Meetings
Waste Reduction
& Recycling Committee

Chairperson, Barb Day

Recycling Drives:

Monthly roving recycling drives roamed the county to bring the opportunity to many. Our summary:

- 857 Volunteer hours
- 420 bags of Styrofoam collected
- 9,910 total lbs. of batteries collected at drives
  - 3,441 lbs. of Alkaline
  - 150 lbs. of Nickel Cadmium
  - 273 lbs. of Nickel Metal Hydride
  - 5,243 lbs. of Lead
  - 31 lbs. of Button
  - 757 lbs. of Lithium Ion
- 3,335 Fluorescent bulbs
- Electronics
  - 226,829 lbs., not TVs or Monitors
  - 1,986 Televisions and 463 monitors, weighing 164,083 lbs. total
- 10 gaylords of clothing
- 78 Recycle bins filled with VHS and cassette tapes, DVDs, CDs, and computer floppy disks
Membership Committee

Chairperson, Cynthia W. Kanner

Highlights accomplished by the Membership committee in 2017:

- Achieved our goal of enrolling 100 new members for the year
- Arranged for tour for members of Boloria Meadows
- Toured Solid Waste Water Treatment Facility in Algonquin
- Held trivia night at Crystal Lake Brewing for members
- Held first Business Member coffee
- Held first Young Professional/Millennial event at Crystal Lake Brewing
- Organized Volunteer Appreciation event and meal at Sterne’s Fen
- Tabled at Bioneer Speaker Series at MCC on three evenings
- Tabled at annual Natural Landscaping Seminar at MCC
- Held Annual Dinner Meeting at Park Place
- Tabled at annual Garden Fest at MCC
- Tabled at Earth Day in Prairie View Education Center
- Tabled at three documentary movies held at MCC
- Tabled at McHenry County Fair
- Held Annual Corn Roast for members at Pioneer Tree Farm
- Tabled at It's Our River Day in Algonquin
“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”
Education Committee

Chairperson, Mary Forni

2017 Education Committee

- Showed three documentaries
  
  Time to Choose

  The Family Farm

  An Inconvenient Sequel:
  Truth to Power with live webcast and Q & A with Al Gore

- Earth Day with MCCD at Prairieview Education Center, co-chaired, record turnout

- Scholarship winners
  
  Taylor Sheridan, Cary-Grove High School

  Paige King, Johnsburg High School

- Collaboration, co-sponsoring with Citizens Climate Lobby, Sustainability Center at MCC and The Food Shed Co-op.

In order to protect all living things, The Environmental Defenders is dedicated and committed to the preservation and improvement of the natural environment in McHenry County. 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.”
Fundraising Committee

Chairperson, Anne Basten

Raised $29,000 through the following activities:

- The Green Spot Used Book Store
- Hallway used book sales
- Restaurant Special Events
- Pioneer Tree Farm sales
- Annual meeting raffles and auctions to members
- Sale of used items online
- Spring and Summer garage sales
- Used Book sale in Algonquin Township

Thank you to all the volunteers who support the Environmental Defenders by donating time at the Pioneer Tree farm, Use It Again, used book sales as well as at the Green Spot, in addition to providing baked goods, high quality gently used household items, and customer service expertise to maximize our fundraising efforts throughout the communities we serve. This year we added a few restaurant fundraising events where all you had to do was eat! Without everyone's support and ideas, we could not continue to maintain the luxury of an office and the limited staff we have or to have the Green Spot to redistribute useable books at reasonable rates. If you have additional fundraising event ideas, don't forget to let us know!

The Defender’s Green Spot Used Bookstore has been in business for over 7 years. 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. In 2017 the Green Spot generated over $15,000 in sales and $8,000 to income. It takes a lot of hours, work and dedication to sort, price, shelve and sell all those books. Thank you to all the Green Spot volunteers, book donors and customers.
Board of Directors & Staff

2017

Nancy Schietzelt, President
Lori McConville, Vice President
Alice Lumsden, Secretary
James Wigman, Treasurer
Dwight Dalton
Ed Ellinghausen
Mary Forni
Kim Hankins
Sue Jensen
Christine Kustra
Rico Rotta
Ken Santowski
Joe Starzynski
Nicky Strahl

~

Cynthia Kanner, Outreach Coordinator
Christy Matsuoka, Bookkeeper & Records Clerk
Business Members—2017

1776 Restaurant
About Better Living
Adele Petersen, Realtor, ReMax Unlimited Northwest
Algonquin/LITH Chamber of Commerce
Algonquin Township Highway Department
American Ad Bag
Apple Creek Flowers
Artland Story Group
Alpine Accessories
Illinois State Senator Pam Althoff
B&B Auto Express Care
The Backdrop
Brothers Junk Removal
Burseth Farm
Calco Pallets
Computer Recycling Center
Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
Copy Express, Inc.
Countryside Flower Shop & Nursery
Crystal Lake Brewing
Crystal Lake Park District
Dave’s Bait & Tackle
Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen
Falcon Green Resources
William R Kreznor & Assoc, Inc
Hyperstitch, Inc.
Marvin’s Toy Store
McHenry County College
McHenry County Department of Water Resources
Pioneer Tree Farm
RCW Tax Services
Red Buffalo Nursery
Reprographics
Respace, Inc.
Riverbottom Icecream Co
Sustainable Life, Inc.
The UPS Store of Crystal Lake
Wheel Werks Bikes
Woodstock Chamber of Commerce
# Financial Summary

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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>468,837</td>
<td>409,325</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>469,924</td>
<td>411,600</td>
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Membership & Contributions

$1,000 Plus
Jerry Gudauskas
Charles Liebman
Dan & Sandra Scheinfeld
Cynthia Skrukrud & Tom Von Geldern
Nancy & Randy Schietzelt
Ted & Judy Thornton
Kristin Georgy
Judy Rogers & Dale Shriver
Tim & Melodie Feeley

$400-999
June & Steve Keibler
Kathy Powles
Deb & Don Chapman
Leo Quanz
Russell and Sara Foszcz
Roberta Wajrowski
Jim & Kathy Wigman
Phil Zack
Larry Schmidt & Kathleen Bergan Schmidt
Phil & Alison Baggio
Mark & Isabel Schiffer
Anonymous

$200-399
Dee Abbate & Fred Berchtold
Anne & Scott Basten
James & Peg Bolm
Avis & Jeff Fisher
Jim & Marlene Keenan
Randall Lauen
Tom & Jean Nigbor
Donald & Emale Peters
Donald Purn

$100-199
Alpine Accessories
Pam Althoff
Deborah Ballard
Nancy & John Balough
Barbara Bennett
Lenore Beyer
Scott & Kim Brix
Addie Burns

Please let us know if you feel an error has been made in contribution reporting.
Paul & Chris Rechten
Renate Rotta-Koch & Richard Rotta
Nancy Schwab & Landon Petrie
Dr. Lloyd Shaw
Joe Starzynski
Judi & Chuck Stuck
Rhoda Symons
Steve Tayler
Michelle & Bryan Thomas
Weg Thomas
Rhienna Trevino
Max Vierck
Greg & Carol Waggoner
Bruce & Sharon Walter
Richard & Mary Wantuch
Johanna White
Paula Yensen & Mike Bissett
Algonquin Township Road
District
Pioneer Tree Farm
Matt Calhoun
Backdrop, An Art Gallery
Deb Figura
Adrienne Adams
Dave Brandt
Greg & Carol Alfus
Annette Sather
Sandi Teiken
Marvin's Toys
Tom & Kelly Mitchell
Marti Swanson
Diane & Alan Lubow
Thomas & Caryn McAndrews
Rich & Susan Eyre
Dennis Dreher
Lisa Haderlein & Tom Cubr
Rick & Lois Johnson
Kevin & Katie Kelley
Barbara Lanphier
Lou Anne Majewski
Dale & Trudy Medendorp
Stephen Mitten
Lonni Oldham
Katie & Nick Parkhurst
Jan & George Soderberg
Joseph Sternberg & Elizabeth O-Leary Sternberg
Al Van Maren
George & Beverly Waterman
Dwight Dalton
Judy & Jack Speer
Elizabeth & Kenneth Kessler
David & Carolyn Lawson
Kevin Lydon
Kelly & John MacDonald
Terry & Mary Nader
Rick Stevens & Rhoda Drie
Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
Jeanne Adams
Anatole Crane & Sharron Andresen
Dorothy Johnson
Jack Thacker
Joseph Wajrowski
Ryan Webb
Neil Beaufait
Duane Haak
Don & Lorene Henning
Mary Hubert
Michael & Pat Kallaus
Denise Kuhnle
Sharon Lingner
Christine Nye & Ken Williams
Mark O'Connell
Anne Pierce
Susan Richmond
R. Shanlever
Van & Penny Vogel
Isabel Bernardi
Zach Bray
Matthew Jamnik
Sharon Khan
Connor Patterson
James & Laura Bauman
Christina Campbell
Ariana DeGenova
Theresa DeNicolo
Donna Doll
Devin & Rebecca Embrey
Barbara Freeman
Carol Giammattei
Mary Goerner
Desiree Gomaez
Anthony Jackson & Ashleigh Oranger
Jeff McKee
Debra Muscarello & Maxwell Robey
Andy Peterssson
Ryan Pettit
Donald Urban
Michael Ander
Sherry Anderson
Clarence & Pam Arnold
Miriam Baily

Up to $99

Travis Broederdorf
Megan Burke
Dandy Depot
Jordyn Gomez-Bonner
James & Kyle Hennessey
Joanna Huang
Chantel Jenrette
Jacob Karkowski
Andrea Marquardt
Michelle Muryn
Thomas Neese
Anita Neville
Emma Podpora
Arden Podpora
Kimberly Scaliatine
Erin Staley
Lauren Stygar
Andy Tacheney
Svetlana Taylor

Andy Tacheny
Svetlana Taylor

Lonni Oldham
Katie & Nick Parkhurst
Jan & George Soderberg
Joseph Sternberg & Elizabeth O-Leary Sternberg
Al Van Maren
George & Beverly Waterman
Dwight Dalton
Judy & Jack Speer
Elizabeth & Kenneth Kessler
David & Carolyn Lawson
Kevin Lydon
Kelly & John MacDonald
Terry & Mary Nader
Rick Stevens & Rhoda Drie
Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
Jeanne Adams
Anatole Crane & Sharron Andresen
Dorothy Johnson
Jack Thacker
Joseph Wajrowski
Ryan Webb
Neil Beaufait
Duane Haak
Don & Lorene Henning
Mary Hubert
Michael & Pat Kallaus
Denise Kuhnle
Sharon Lingner
Christine Nye & Ken Williams
Mark O'Connell
Anne Pierce
Susan Richmond
R. Shanlever
Van & Penny Vogel
Isabel Bernardi
Zach Bray
Matthew Jamnik
Sharon Khan
Connor Patterson
James & Laura Bauman
Christina Campbell
Ariana DeGenova
Theresa DeNicolo
Donna Doll
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Barbara Freeman
Carol Giammattei
Mary Goerner
Desiree Gomez
Anthony Jackson & Ashleigh Oranger
Jeff McKee
Debra Muscarello & Maxwell Robey
Andy Peterssson
Ryan Pettit
Donald Urban
Michael Ander
Sherry Anderson
Clarence & Pam Arnold
Miriam Baily
John Bazan
Dave Bengston
Gerry & Emily Berendt
Stephen Bittner
Jane Brantley
William Byczek
Judi Chase
Berne Clary
Lawrence Connell & Kathryn Smith-Connell
Pat Dahn
Ronald & Alice Denley
Hilda Dow
Ray & Grace Fischer
Frank & Colleen Gosser
Wendee Green
Karen Griswold
LaRita Grubb
Mike Gullotto
Terry & Linda Gurgone
Darla & Tom Hageman
Susan Hansell
Ann Hanson
Jeff & Carol Heisler
Bruce Hilstrom
David & Barbara Howard
Dorothy Hughes
Sandy & Gordon James
Mercedes Jamka
John Jocius
John Katzenmayer
Leslie Krebs
Jennel Lampe
Lloyd & Rosemarie Lesmeister
Geri Levine
Nancy Loomis
Ray Lucich
Renee & Albert Malik
Celeste & Rich Mann
Barbara Marian
Karl Matzen
Charles & Diana McCloskey
Andrea Miller
Mary Moltmann & Ed Bennett
Mike & Barb Montes
Andrea Myers
Jean Herturet Niemann
Richard Obenauf
Anne O'Donnell
Mary O'Leary & Kathleen O'Leary
Susan Olson
Marie Orwig
Edward & Rosemarie Pahnke
Libby Pappalardo
Erwin Pasch
Sandra Paulu
Kay Preshlock
Irene Raven
Larry Reinhard
Susan Richards
David & Kathleen Rigby
Roger & Darlene Schlies
John & Elizabeth Schroeder
Joe & Barbara Sgarbossa
Arden Spooner
Sally & Robert Stachniak
Karen Stahlecker
M.A. Stompanato
Amy Tacheney
Trudith & Dan Thompson
John & Lori Valus
Gail Wachowski
Ron Wagner
Carolyn Wahl
Thomas & Eva Wedel
Bruce & Marian Weiss
Donovan Wilkin
Al Wilson
Mary Wolff & Warren Wahl
Karen Wootton
Martin & Beth Daly
Karen Hutchings
Sahara Kuiper
Fernando Medinilla-Luque
Susan Netherton & Gardner Marcy
Debbie Wallenfang
Curtis & Maria Bremer
Terry & Pat Dieckhoff
Fran & Jim Hicks
Chuck Howenstine
Lynn Waishwell
Jeff Aufmann
Mark Calhoun
Tom & Deb Corcoran
Jane & Pamela Gerloff
Jenn Hofmann
Tom & Roberta Hoover
Lisa Johnson
Rachel Knutson
Robert & Marieluiise Ludicky
Mary Perkins
Jack Proesel
Suzanne Ricciardi
Eric & Karla Trippe
Jerry & Elaine Worth
Mary Ahnen
Betty Andrysiak
Lillian Bandelin
Kim Bateman
Jack & Linda Biesterfeld
Kerry & Sherry Blass
Carmen & Neil Boyer
Robert Brasile
James & Suzanne Campbell
John Daab & Kathleen Spaltro
Margaret Deason
Dawn Dellavedova
Walt Dembos Jr.
Frank & Karen Dombrowski
Lou Emmons
Ken Fiske
Tom Flynn
Donald & Lucille Foecking
David & Caren Gardner
Steve Ross
Lynn Rotunno
Angela Ryan
Kathy Salzmann
Carolyn Schofield
Bob Schroyer &
Pat Sullivan-Shroyer
Ingrid & Will Schulze
Tom & Vicki Sheppard
Mark & Ann Shuman
Cal & Michele Skinner
Philip & Melody Stanko
Nicky Strahl
Jim & Diane Strzelinski
James Sullivan
Ray & Angela Thuma
Katherine Tindill
Dorothy Vick
Becky Walkington &
John Peterson
Rick Walters
Friends of Kelli Wegener
Caron & Steve Wenzel
Linda Wheeler
Christina Whitworth
Debora & Keith Winn
Lorna Wolff
Sally & Jim Yanahan
George & Judith Zielinski
Algonquin Garden Club
McHenry Savings Bank
Zak Klehr
Michael Gallery
Christine Kustra
Wayne & Nancy Limbaugh
Sue Racansky
Pat Christian
Linda Schuberth
Ders Anderson
John Cole
Carol Gardner
Russ & Janet Gardner
Jan & Judy Beth Hervert
Ann Legg
Ron & Debra Bendis
Scott Brissey &
L. Chase Brissey
Dee & Art Budelier
Sharon & Michael Chakoian
Bette & David Chwalisz
Katherine Hanson
Walter & Ann Korpan
Rance & Alice Lumsden
Stephen Newton
Joseph Perilongo
Tom & Carol Philips
Ann Viger
Larry & Lucy Lane
Dennis & Barb Blow
Richard & Sonja Brook
Carolyn Campbell &
Carl Edstrom
Cecilia Carman
Jeanette Clark
Jeanine Dammann
Debbie Dechant
Anna Evans
David Gervais
Lawrence &
Barbara Glowacki
Judith Goffo
Jim & Joan Hasselman
John & Jean Headley
Beth Holland & Jim Zid
Donald Humbertson &
Cynthia White
Jeff & Denise Jordan
John Kremer
Lisa Maier
Sarah Michehl
Bryan & Jennifer Millard
Gregory T. Rajszy
Robert & Ann Romadka
James Thrall
Michael White
Burton Bridge Beach Civic Association
Ann Beck
Mary Donner
Robert & Kathleen Hahn
Gilbert & Susan Tauck
Chuck Wiedemann &
Janie & Ruxx

110 S. Johnson Street,
Suite 106
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-0393
Www.mcdef.org
FB, Instagram, Twitter
envirodefmc@gmail.com

“The Green Spot”
110 S. Johnson Street,
Woodstock

Hours
TUES-FRI—11AM to 4PM
SAT—11AM to 3PM
In addition to all the work conducted in 2017 by our hard-working volunteer committees, we also provide education and advocacy regarding policies that protect the environment in McHenry County. At right is a summary of those accomplishments.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is grateful for the support in the form of grants from The McHenry County Community Foundation, The Cowlin Family Foundation and the Rotary Club of Woodstock.

Advocacy Efforts 2017

- Provided an Environmental Tip to the Northwest Herald for weekly publication.
- Presented programs through our Speakers Bureau advocating environmental protection to groups around the county.
- Distributed environmental protection information at multiple events during the year.
- Activated our members through leadership from the Illinois Environmental Council to file witness slips to support/oppose many proposed laws affecting our environment in Illinois.
- Continued our participation with the McHenry County Health Department’s Solid Waste Task Force.
- Continued our efforts with the Right-of-Ways as Habitat Working Group and the Monarch Coalition to increase habitat for monarchs/pollinators with our work at 4 prairies in county.
- Participated in the Steering Committee for the creation of a Fox River Corridor Plan from Algonquin to Burton’s Bridge led by CMAP.
- Continued to support the efforts of the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizen’s Climate Lobby.
- Facilitated monthly Green Drinks educational and networking events.
- Worked with MCC’s Sustainability Center as part of the Bioneers group to conduct the Green Living Expo and the Bioneers Speakers Series.

THANK YOU.

Our organization would not exist without the passion and energy of those who organize, volunteer and simply support us, all toward the goal of helping to protect our environment.

YOU are The Environmental Defenders.