Latest Chinese permit details show impacts of National Sword

By Colin Staub

Chinese authorities have issued the first five rounds of recyclable-material import permits for 2018. Compared with 2017, the country has allowed substantially less recycled plastic to enter the country and approved permits for far fewer companies across all material types.

The first five batches approve 21,300 metric tons of scrap plastic, according to data published by China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection. For comparison, the China Scrap Plastics Association recently noted more than 3.5 million metric tons of scrap plastic were approved for import just in the first batch of permits issued for 2017. On the fiber front, the first five rounds of permits approve 4.6 million metric tons of scrap paper for import into the country. A total volume for fiber import permits issued during a comparable period in 2017 was not immediately available.

The sheer number of permits issued was drastically reduced. For instance, in the first batch for 2017, there were 2,937 permits issued for import of various materials and volumes. In the first round this year, there were just 108 permits issued.

(see Recycling, page 3)

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straws, a Documentary Film</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Garage Sale</td>
<td>May 3 – May 5</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BUSINESS & CIVIC MEMBERS

1776 Restaurant
815-336-1776
1776restaurant.com

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

Adele Petersen, Realtor
RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest
815-355-5729
www.adleepetersen.com

Algonquin/LITH
Chamber of Commerce
847-658-5300
info@ALChamber.com

Algonquin Township Road District
847-639-2700
www.algonquintownship.com

American Ad Bag
800-382-6844
www.adbag.com

Apple Creek Flowers
815-338-2255
applecreekflowers.com

B&B Automotive McHenry
815-363-7560
alison-rana@yahoo.com

Backdrop Vintage
815-338-3007
Backdropvinate.com

Burseth Farm
815-342-0745
www.bursethfarm.com

Calco Pallets
815-725-5387
815pallets@sbcglobal.net

Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
815-356-0115
www.consciouscup.com

Copy Express, Inc.
815-338-7161
www.copyexpressyes.com

Countryside Flower Shop
815-459-8130
www.countrysideflowershop.net/

Crystal Lake Brewing
779-220-9288
Crystallakebrew.com

Crystal Lake Park District
815-459-0680
http://crystallakeparks.org/

Dave’s Bait & Tackle
815-861-1533
davekranz@sbcglobal.net

Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen?
815-356-9980
Thedukeabides.com

Hyperstitch, Inc.
815-568-0590
www.hyperstitch.com

Illinois State Senator, Pam Althoff
815-455-6330 or 217-782-8000
www.senatoralthoff.com

Magitek Energy Solutions, Inc.
847-409-1927
www.magitekenergy.com

Marvin’s Toy Store
779-220-4179
www.martinstoystore.com

McHenry County College
815-479-7765
www.mcc.edu

McHenry County Conservation District
815-338-6223
www.mccdistrict.org

McHenry Co. Dept. of Water Resources
815-334-4213
waterres@co.mchenry.il.us

Oakford Physical Therapy
815-334-8512
www.oakfordphysicaltherapy.com

Pioneer Tree Farm
815-385-8512
www.pionerettefarm.com

RCW Tax Services
815-893-0736
www.rcwtax.com

Red Buffalo Nursery
815-648-4838
www.redbuffalonursery.com

Reprographics
815-477-1018
www.reprographic.org

Respace, Inc.
815-276-9823
info@respaceinc.com

Riverbottom Ice Cream Co.
224-678-9438
www.riverbottomicecream.com

Sustainable Life, Inc.
815-276-9753
www.sustainablelifeproducts.com

Terra Vitae Farms
815-245-0490
www.terravitae.com

The UPS Store of Crystal Lake
www.theupstore.com/1947.htm

Wheel Werks Bikes
815-444-6897
http://wheelwerksbikes.com

The Woodstock Square Mall
815-338-0393
www.woodstocksquaremall.org

STAFF
Cynthia W. Kanner
Executive Director

Christy Matsuoka
Bookkeeper & Records Clerk

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Kim Hankins, 1st Vice President
Nancy Schietzelt, 2nd Vice President
Alice Lumsden, Treasurer
Dwight Dalton
Ed Ellinghausen
Mary Forni
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Rico Rotta
Ken Santowski
Joe Starzynski

Newsletter Editor: Barb Day
Newsletter Layout: Lynn Rotunno

Hours
Tues - Fri: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

110 S. Johnson Street
Woodstock Square Mall, Woodstock
Credit cards accepted.
Editor's note: These articles are provided to give you an opportunity to see how difficult recycling has become. That so much of the recycled material intended to become another product finds its way to places outside the United States and then returned to us as a "new" product is wrong. Jobs exist in the recycling industry: labor, management, entrepreneurial. There has to be a better way. Barb Day, newsletter editor.

This article originally appeared in trade publication Resource Recycling. Get more recycling news and analysis at resource-recycling.com.

Where Exports Displaced from China are Finding a Home

By Colin Staub

Recyclables exported out of the U.S. are moving to Southeast Asia, where reclaimers and mills are dramatically increasing purchases as China closes its doors to recovered materials. New figures illustrate that shift.

Malaysia nearly quadrupled its U.S.-sourced imports of plastics categorized as mixed/other last year, jumping from about 9,600 metric tons in 2016 to nearly 38,000 a year later, according to figures from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). It also brought in substantially more PE and PET, as did Thailand and Vietnam. India, meanwhile, absorbed major tonnages of PE last year, increasing imports 50 percent to reach more than 88,000 metric tons, larger volume growth than that of any other country.

Figures on the shifting market come as China continues to take steps barring scrap from entering its borders. The first round of 2018 import permits shows a stunning drop in plastic tonnages and companies approved for import compared with a year earlier. Also, Chinese officials last week finalized a 0.5 percent contamination limit for recovered plastic and paper imports.

New year-end data from China Customs also quantifies the decrease in tonnages flowing into China from 2016 to 2017. Some 5.83 million metric tons of scrap plastic were shipped into the country in 2017, down from 7.35 million metric tons throughout 2016. The year-to-year drop in plastic tonnages between 2016 and 2017 became particularly dramatic at the end of last year. In December 2016, importers brought in 740,000 tons of scrap plastic; during the same period a year later, amid restricted permits and the looming materials ban, that figure fell by more than 75 percent to just 180,000 tons imported.

Paper also felt the effects by volume. Overall in 2016, China imported 28.5 million tons of recovered fiber, a figure that dropped to 25.7 million tons in 2017. More than 2.6 million tons of recovered paper and paperboard were imported into China in December 2016, compared with 950,000 tons in December 2017.

In the past, China has been responsible for 55 percent of global recovered fiber imports and 51 percent of scrap plastic imports, according to data from ISRI. But with the country's much-discussed imports ban, reduced import permits and upcoming contamination crackdown, that has changed dramatically.

The Chinese policy changes have quickly begun to “reshape the global recycling landscape,” ISRI Chief Economist Joe Pickard said, and newly compiled data from the industry group makes that market movement clearly visible.

Countries up plastics demand

Plastics exporters have begun shipping bales to Southeast Asian processors who will create pellets that can be sent to Chinese end users, according to the China Scrap Plastics Association (CSPA).

Plastic has seen the largest movement into other countries over the past year. “It’s a real game changer that (China is) not going to be taking this in,” said Bernie Lee, ISRI’s commodities research analyst. The global industry has already begun to adapt. Lee pointed to several large plastic scrap growth markets broken down by resin.

For PE, India has had the most volume growth, importing 88,155 metric tons in 2017 compared with 58,747 a year earlier, according to the figures from ISRI. Vietnam increased PE imports by 166 percent, from 16,845 to 44,716 metric tons. Malaysian imports grew 132 percent, from 16,277 to 37,778 metric tons. Taiwan increased imports by 18 percent, from 14,063 to 16,575 metric tons. Thailand increased PE imports by 876 percent, but the volume was relatively small: 10,153 metric tons, up from 1,041. Recovered PET shipments saw similar Southeast Asian growth on a smaller volume level. Turkey also nearly doubled PET imports, although that was only an increase of about 2,500 metric tons. For PVC, Malaysia grew imports by 407 percent to hit 8,521 metric tons.
mixed paper. “However, this kind of pales in comparison to
outright banned from import into China. Vietnam increased
imports from 3,642 to 9,114 metric tons. Spain also boosted
imports from 606 to 5,014 metric tons last year.

Although these provide a clear picture of where material is
migrating, Lee cautioned against drawing too much from the
numbers, particularly given the fast-changing market dynam-
ics where exporters are scrambling to find outlets for material.

“A large growth change doesn’t necessarily mean that there’s
a huge amount of consumption demand that’s going to be
coming on-line in the next few months or next few years,” he
said. “It really depends on what may have been available at
the time.”

Despite their growth, the market alternatives have “far from
enough” capacity to fill the Chinese demand, said Steve
Wong, executive president of CSPA and chairman of Hong
Kong plastics recycling company Fukutomi. He said the
scrap restrictions have created a 5-million-ton supply gap for
Chinese end users.

Shifts in fiber shipments

Lee also pointed to alternative recovered fiber markets that
have grown substantially in the past year, although he offered
a qualification: The increased demand among some countries
is not necessarily indicative of long-term capacity boosts due
to infrastructure investment or manufacturing increases. Some
of these large growth changes may, instead, be due to reject-
ed shipments that had tried to enter China at the end of the
summer 2017, and they could be temporary.

Mixed paper has seen the most dramatic impact, because it is
outright banned from import into China. Vietnam increased
its consumption of mixed paper by 616 percent from 2016
to 2017. India and Canada also increased their purchases of
mixed paper. “However, this kind of pales in comparison to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>2017 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>10,153</td>
<td>876%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>16,845</td>
<td>44,716</td>
<td>166%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>16,277</td>
<td>37,778</td>
<td>132%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>58,747</td>
<td>88,155</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>14,063</td>
<td>16,575</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PET (metric tons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>2017 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>7,759</td>
<td>18,388</td>
<td>137%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2,807</td>
<td>5,154</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>8,341</td>
<td>13,351</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,477</td>
<td>5,101</td>
<td>47%</td>
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**PVC (metric tons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>2017 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1,679</td>
<td>8,521</td>
<td>407%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>2,006</td>
<td>128%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>3,040</td>
<td>4,584</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>7,959</td>
<td>10,763</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6,433</td>
<td>7,037</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</table>

**Mixed Plastics (metric tons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>2017 (Jan-Nov)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>5,004</td>
<td>727.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>9,604</td>
<td>37,694</td>
<td>292.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>3,642</td>
<td>9,114</td>
<td>150.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>12,968</td>
<td>24,386</td>
<td>88.00%</td>
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The difference in permit volumes from early 2017 to ear-
ly 2018 is likely due to the substantially fewer companies
approved for import so far. “[The decrease] is not a total
surprise,” said Harry Lee of CSPA. He pointed to a handful
of factors that played into this development. Some companies
had trouble meeting environmental regulations, barring them
from receiving new permits. Others have a “pessimistic atti-
dude” and are unsure whether they will be approved, so they
don’t apply, he said.

Additionally, a large part of the decline can be attributed to a
majority of post-consumer plastics being banned from import
as of the beginning of 2018. Post-industrial plastics are not
named in the ban but have been targeted for sharp quality
controls.

The plastic tonnages stand in stark contrast with fiber, which
saw less of a disruption. For example, Nine Dragons Paper
was approved to bring in more than 1 million tons of scrap
fiber. Altogether, the first round of permits approves nearly 2.3
million tons of scrap paper imports.

The permits continue a multi-year downward trend in plastics
volumes. Just looking at PET permits approved during the
first issuance round each year, weights dropped from more
(continued on next page)
than 3 million tons in 2015 to 1.1 million in 2016, and then up slightly to 1.5 million in 2017 before plummeting to the current 5,692 tons, according to CSPA.

Although it’s just the first round of permits, the decrease — which China has said for months would happen — provides a bleak outlook for scrap importers. “If this approval rate is continued for the subsequent import permit approvals, the major recycling operations in China, which used to rely on imports, would be forced to switch to sourcing from domestic supply,” Wong of CSPA said.

Our New Executive Director

The Environmental Defenders’ Board is very pleased to announce that Cynthia Kanner has been promoted to the position of Executive Director! Cynthia worked for the Environmental Defenders for ten years as our Newsletter Editor and for over two years as our Outreach Coordinator. She has been a member since 2001, has volunteered with It’s Our River Day for a decade, and voluntarily started our BYOBag Committee. She has also led canoe trips on The Fox River annually for a number of years. So, many of you may already know her, but you may not know that Cynthia comes to us with past Executive Director experience from serving in that capacity from 1995 – 1998 at the World Affairs Council of Washington, D. C. Prior to that she was their Associate Director from 1987 – 1995. Cynthia was born in DC, and grew up in The Garden State - New Jersey. She received her BA in Comparative International Studies from Duke University in 1987 and gained valuable experience while serving as the Director of Communications and Marketing at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona from 1999 – 2000.

Cynthia lives with her husband and two sons in Algonquin. Since our organization has already made considerable strides in our mission while Cynthia has been our Outreach Coordinator, we’re extremely enthusiastic and excited about all that she will help us accomplish as our Executive Director!

Looking Ahead

‘STRAWS,’ a Documentary Film at MCC

April 10, 7 p.m.

It’s estimated every day more than 500 million plastic straws are used once and tossed in the U.S. alone. Ocean Conservancy ranks straws as the fifth most found litter item on beaches. They’re non-recyclable, so they wind up in landfills, litter streets and add to the estimated 8.5 million metric tons of plastic debris in oceans annually. Actor and Environmentalist Ed Begley Jr. said “I highly recommend STRAWS as an educational and entertaining film about plastic pollution.” -

Join us for a screening of the documentary film, “STRAWS,” by Linda Booker with co-sponsors McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program (MC-SEEP), Environmental Defenders, Blue Planet Club of Woodstock High School, the Joint Commissions of Social & Cultural Awareness and Environment, City of Woodstock, and Down to Earth Club and Sustainability Center at McHenry County College. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Film starts at 7:00 p.m., Running time – 32 minutes. McHenry County College, 8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake. Luetch Conference Center. A panel discussion with experts on single-use plastic pollution and waste reduction immediately follows.

The film kicks off a joint program of McHenry County College and The Environmental Defenders called – The Last Straw – which advocates for the reduction of plastic straws in McHenry County and explores options for reducing their use and replacing them with alternatives.

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

McHenry County Conservation District’s (MCCD) Prairiewood Education Center, located at 2112 Behan Road in Crystal Lake.

Environmental exhibitors, live music and open mic, puppet shows, guided nature walks, recycling and more!
REMINDER: The Human Race
Sunday, April 22, 8 a.m.

The Environmental Defenders is joining The McHenry County Human Race! When you register to run, half of your registration is donated to us when you pick Environmental Defenders as your charity! And, if you make additional donations or create your very own fundraising page, 100% of those donations go to The Environmental Defenders! You can run on your own, join a team or create your own team. So, GET YOUR HERO ON (the theme) and run for your environment! Do you have friends or family who live far away? They can participate, too, as virtual runners! To register and get the details, please go to www.mchumanrace.org. Twitter: #HumanRace. Registration rates change as time passes. The race will be held at McHenry County College and is sponsored by Volunteer Center McHenry County.

Spring Hollow Woods Tour
Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

By Nancy Schietzelt

Defenders’ members are invited to tour the beautiful woods at Spring Hollow in Bull Valley on April 28 from 2 – 4 p.m. Spring Hollow is an Illinois State Nature Preserve owned by Becky Walkington, one of our members, and her family. It is also the site of the first conservation easement ever placed on property in Illinois, held by The Land Conservancy of McHenry County. Over the years many hours of restoration work by the family and volunteers have removed invasive species and opened the woods to more sunlight. As a result, visitors will be able to enjoy a profusion of spring wildflowers on the site that may be the best in all of McHenry County.

If you would like to attend the tour, please RSVP to our office at 815-338-0393 or at envirodefmc@gmail.com by Thursday, April 26th. This will help us plan for refreshments. Spring Hollow is located at 1314 S. Fleming Road. More complete directions to the site will be provided to those who RSVP.

Environmental Scholarships Available

The Environmental Defenders is offering two Entering College scholarships, $1,000 each, to two outstanding high school seniors planning to pursue careers related to environmental studies. The applicants must reside in and attend high school in McHenry County, have a respectable GPA, two letters of recommendation, plan to attend an accredited college or university, and complete an application, which is available online and at the Environmental Defenders’ office, located at The application and accompanying documents must arrive no later than April 23, 2018.

Solar Panel and Government Incentive Program at McHenry Public Library
Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m.

Magitek Energy, a new business member of the Environmental Defenders, will be offering homeowners and businesses an opportunity to evaluate the potential of installing solar panels as a cost-effective energy alternative on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. Attendees will be provided with a clear perspective on the benefits, as well as information on state and local incentive programs. These programs can reduce the overall cost of a solar-panel energy system to the extent that a homeowner can reach full Return-On-Investment in three to five years,” said Paul LaBarbera, the owner of Magitek.

The presentation is only planned to last half an hour. However, LaBarbera said that time will be packed with information that will help homeowners to make informed decisions. A question and answer session will follow the presentation, which will include discussions about the individual energy needs of those in attendance. Those attending are asked to bring their electric bill or ComEd account number to receive a no-obligation estimate.

To register for this free event, call the McHenry Public Library, 809 N. Front Street, at 815-385-0036. Anyone interested in seeing the library’s solar panels should contact the library and arrive early during daylight hours to view them, weather permitting.
Spring Garage Sale
Thursday, May 3 to Saturday, May 5
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By Nancy Schietzelt
To drop off donations and help with set-up: Sunday, April 29, hours 2-5 p.m.
Monday, April 30 through Wednesday May 2, hours 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Algonquin Township Road District,
8900 Route 14 in Crystal Lake.

We accept just about anything that is clean and re-sellable with a few exceptions: small appliances and electronics must be in working order; no monitors or TVS, no baby carriers or cribs, no large appliances or upholstered furniture, and no clothing or stuffed animals. Email envirodelfmc@gmail.com or call 815-338-0393 with any questions.

Cleanup of Boone Creek
Saturday, May 5, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

By Nancy Schietzelt
On Saturday, May 5th, Defenders’ members are invited by our Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee to help clean up the branch of Boone Creek that runs through the City of McHenry. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves, and boots and to park in the parking lot of the McHenry Public Works building located behind the Jewel Grocery Store at 1415 Industrial Drive in McHenry. All necessary equipment as well as water and snacks will be provided. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Nancy Schietzelt at 815-356-1710. Invite a friend and come help us make a positive difference in our environment and enjoy some time outdoors!

Education & Advocacy
Winter 2018 Education and Advocacy Efforts

By Nancy Schietzelt
The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during winter 2018 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!

- Activated our members to file witness slips to support environmental legislation in the State Legislature
- Participated in MCCD’s Conservation Congress to share ideas and support for protection of McHenry County’s open lands
- Continued to facilitate monthly Green Drinks events
- Convened the McHenry County Watershed Roundtable to share ideas amongst all the watershed groups in the county regarding grants, shared goals, and the revival of a couple dormant groups
- Continued our participation with the McHenry County Solid Waste Task Force
- Worked with the Bioneers Committee, facilitated by the MCC Sustainability Center, to plan the Bioneers Speakers Series and tabled at those events
- Distributed environmental information to attendees at the WPPC’s Natural Landscaping Seminar
- Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby
- Presented a program to the women’s group of the St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Crystal Lake about the Environmental Defenders
- Continued to provide the Northwest Herald with an Environmental Tip for weekly publication
- Continued facilitating the Silver and Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition by promoting and taking part in monthly workdays at Sterne’s Fen in the Sleepy Hollow Watershed
- Participated in planning for the McHenry County 2018 Water Forum

2018 Green Living Expo
November 3rd at MCC!
Interested in being part of the 2018 Green Living Expo?
Email sustainability@mchenry.edu

Hallway Book Sale
June 14, 16, & 18, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Green Spot will have a Hallway Book Sale at the Woodstock Square Mall, 110 S. Johnson Street.

Upcoming Canoe Trips
May 13, Des Plaines River. For more information and to RSVP, contact Cindy Skrukrud at cskrukrud@gmail.com.
June 23, Nippersink Creek. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dan Wilson at danwil126@aol.com.
(Note: We meet up at approximately 9 a.m. For more specific information, contact the event organizer.)
Reflections

Pollinator Plantings and Monarch Research

By Nancy Schietzelt

For the past two years, members of our Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee as well as other volunteers have worked to improve the habitat for pollinators at four locations in the county: the Soil and Water Conservation District property at the corner of Dean and U.S. Highway 14, Triangle Prairie at the corner of Lake Street and U.S. Highway 14, O’Brien Prairie at the corner of O’Brien Road and Illinois highway 47, and the McHenry County Fairgrounds.

We are very fortunate that two Loyola University students, completing coursework at Loyola University’s Retreat and Ecology Campus in Bull Valley under the mentorship of Father Stephen Mitten, chose three of our sites to research the benefits of habitat restoration to monarch butterflies. They have documented their work on the LUREC Biodiversity and Restoration Facebook page. The fascinating results of their research can be found at: https://www.luc.edu/retreatcampus/ecology/biodiversity/biodiversityresearch/ We want to thank Luke Landry and Kevin White for including our work in their studies. If you are interested in helping with our efforts to improve habitat for pollinators, please call (815-338-0393) or email envirodefmc@gmail.com.

Business Members Met

By Cynthia Kanner

Environmental Defenders’ Business Members met for the second time on February 6 at Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters in Crystal Lake. It was a wonderful opportunity for members to do an onsite visit with a local business that has supported the Environmental Defenders for many years for a conversation about sustainably minded business practices, such as recycling and composting. Sharing ideas, learning from one another and planning future visits to other sites, not to mention great coffee, made for a fun and successful gathering. Shown here are Business Members from Marvin’s Toy Store, About Better Living with Shaklee, 1776 Restaurant, William R. Kreznor & Associates, Hyperstitch, Terra Vitae Farms, RCW Tax Services, Oakford Physical Therapy, and Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters.

Yoga Anyone?

By Carina Vowels

The smell of freshly roasted coffee fills the air as I move all the tables and chairs for a very thorough, candlelit, sweep and mop of the space. There tends to be between six and twelve people that arrive on their mats each session to warm their hearts into hearths through guided movements and breath work. My offerings focus on the reverent, yet playful, nature of yoga postures while becoming more tuned into gratitude for oneself and others. All movements can be modified to be accessible to everyone so join the fun for the next class on March 21st at Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters (8pm)! Free tea if you bring your own reusable mug. I will be gone for the month of April--be on the lookout for May’s schedule too.

Welcome New Members!

Jacob Karkowski, Lake in the Hills
Sharon Cross, Sleepy Hollow
Zoe Clemmons, Cary
Sandra Lindgren, Algonquin
Carol Kolen, Chicago
Susan Zahina-Wysock, Huntley
John Ramos, Crystal Lake
Gary Tranter, Harvard

Brian Scott, Harvard
Colleen Thornton, Woodstock
Linda Kuhn, Antioch
Gail & Steve Myers, McHenry
Dorothy Robin, Woodstock
Katherine Greenlee, Woodstock
Lindsey Wett, McHenry
Kelli Wegener, Crystal Lake
The 10th anniversary of the Bioneers Speaker Series Brought Us Three Wonderful Events

By Kimberly Hankins

On February 13th, Dr. Michael Schuck, International Jesuit Ecology project, and Dr. Nancy Tuchman, Institute for Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University, Chicago came to MCC for an informative evening. Their presentation tilted “Integral Ecologists – the formation from a scientific, ethical and spiritual perspective” challenged us all to rethink our commitment by merging environmental science, environmental ethics, and environmental spirituality to result in more complete and effective environmental action. In addition, they shared information about their environmental education pedagogy, Healing Earth (http://healingearth.ijep.net). I highly recommend you take a look at the website and feel free to use whatever is a good fit. Their work is in the spirit of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si and they had the great privilege of meeting him last September and receiving an award for our Healing Earth online textbook at the Vatican.

On Feb. 27, MCC staff, students and guests were treated to a presentation on “Renaissance Art and Vegetables,” presented by MCC alum James Nienhuis, professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This presentation focused on the evolution of fruits and vegetables through art dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries. Dr. Nienhuis also presented “Women Farming Cooperatives in Central America,” in the evening of that same day. On a project funded by USAID through the University of California-Davis, Nienhuis’ lab worked as a lead institution in an international project to promote sustainable vegetable production in rural areas of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. His presentation shared the science and the stories behind this international research project that impacted many people both in Central America and in sustainable farming in the U.S. MCC President, Clint Gabbard, also presented Dr. Nienhuis with an MCC Diploma in recognition of his time as student at MCC.

Membership Tabling

Lee Frisch was happy to welcome seven new members as she tabled at the recent Natural Landscaping Seminar held by the WPPC. She and Nancy Schietzelt provided information about pollinators, volunteer opportunities for protecting wildlife, and general information about our environment, as well as inviting people to join the Defenders. Our Membership Committee carries out this effort at our Earth Day Celebration, the County Fair, our documentaries, and many other events throughout the year. If you would like to help, please contact Cynthia Kanner at the office (815-338-0393).

The Power of One

By Lindsey DiCello

Far too often we talk ourselves out of pursuing new adventures. It could be going to a new yoga class, joining a club in the area, or even opening that new book sitting on your nightstand. On Saturday, February 24, I mustered up the courage to participate by going for a hike with Young Professional Members of the Environmental Defenders, and I was inspired to help educate people on how they can make an impact.

I am grateful for the new friends and conversation we had over coffee and homemade lentil soup. Walking along the trail, we discussed how the Fox River flows into the Illinois River, which flows into the Mississippi river, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. That got me thinking; an individual raindrop is like one person. One drop barely wets the surface, but hundreds, thousands, fill these rivers and water the plants. We underestimate the power we have to change the environment, but when we come together—that’s when we can make a more significant impact. It all starts with One, One person, One conversation, One meeting of the minds. Step out of your comfort zone, get involved, be inspired. “We don’t inherit the earth from our parents; we borrow it from our children.”
Environmental Defenders 48th Annual Meeting

By Nancy Schietzelt

On March 11, the Environmental Defenders gathered at our 48th Annual Meeting at Park Place in Crystal Lake, where we enjoyed a delicious buffet catered by 1776 from Crystal Lake. We elected Board Members, celebrated our successes during 2017, and honored three awardees for their efforts to protect our environment. People also had an opportunity to take part in our raffles and silent auction to help raise funds for the organization. The event also provided such a nice opportunity to simply catch up with other members.

We were pleased to award Mary Donner with our Volunteer Award for 2017 for all her work at our monthly recycling drives, including her positive enthusiasm and the fact that she always brings food to share. McHenry County Government, represented by members of the Planning and Development Department, was the very deserving recipient of our Government Award for leading the effort to create and staff the position of Water Resource Specialist to help protect our water resources in the county. Our highest honor was bestowed on the Crystal Lake Food Pantry as we awarded them with our Theta Award for all their efforts to protect our environment through recycling cardboard, preventing food waste, composting, and energy saving activities. They serve as a great example for all other food pantries!

After desserts, donated by 1776, and coffee, donated by Conscious Cup, Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources at MCCD, moved everyone present with his presentation on the “Fourth Wave of Conservation”. He spoke about how the theory and practices of conservation in the U.S. have changed over the decades. Leading off with comments about the giants in conservation, such as John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt, he pointed out how their environmental ethics are still so important in the work of the Defenders and other local conservation organizations today. Ed inspired us all to “find our inner Rachel Carson or our inner Aldo Leopold” as we continue our efforts to protect our environment into the future. (Ed’s talk was very similar to the one that he gave at the Openlands Luncheon last Fall. That event was taped, so if you would like to watch it, go to https://openlands.org/support/the-openlands-annual-luncheon/the-openlands-2017-annual-luncheon/.)

The efforts of our Membership and Fundraising Committees made for a very festive evening. Adding to that were the centerpieces donated by Apple Creek Flowers in Woodstock. We extend a big thank you to everyone whose work contributed to our event, as well as to all our dinner sponsors and everyone who donated items to our raffle and silent auction. The contributions of everyone involved made for a very memorable 48th Annual Meeting!
One of the easiest ways to donate to The Environmental Defenders is by contributing to EarthShare in your workplace charity campaign. Talk with your employer or contact the Environmental Defenders at 815-338-0393.

Recycling News

Schedule for Regular Monthly Drives
Our drives take place the second Saturday of each month, March through December 9:00 a.m. to NOON (OR UNTIL OUR TRUCK IS FULL!).

UPCOMING DRIVES:
- April 7 | Crystal Lake
- April 21 | McHenry Township Road District
- April 21 | Earth Day/Prairie View Education Center
- May 12 | Harvard
- May 19 | McHenry Township Road District
- June 9 | City of McHenry
- June 16 | McHenry Township Road District

ACCEPTABLE/ NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
We accept any and all electronics. Our definition of electronics is anything that runs on batteries or plugs in.

These items are accepted at no charge:
- Desktop computers, servers, and related equipment
- Laptops, iPads and tablets
- Printers, scanners, copiers and typewriters
- All peripherals
- Ethernet and Internet switches
- Vacuums, floor cleaners, electric brooms, power tools, garden tools
- Kitchen counter appliances, bathroom gadgets, home stereo equipment
- (speakers, cabling, antennas)
- VCR‒DVD‒cassette tapes
- Laser players, cameras, cell phones, any handheld device, Game Boys, electronic toys, electric cars, humidifiers
- Small counter top refrigerators with no freon
- Fans (all kinds)
- Styrofoam (all colors, shapes and sizes, BUT IT MUST BE CLEAN)
- Packing peanuts (please keep in closed bag or box)
- Bubble wrap
- Packing pillows, foam sheets
- Car/motorcycle or sump pump batteries
- Clothing/shoes/blankets/towels, etc.

The following items require a fee of $.50 per pound with a maximum charge of $50.00 PER ITEM:
- All Televisions (any size) and Computer Monitors
- Batteries; all types
- Fluorescent lights
- Regular incandescent bulbs

WE DO NOT ACCEPT white goods (washers, dryers, dishwashers, ovens, refrigerators, freezers) at any drive. There are numerous other resources to dispose of them (Commonwealth Edison), or contact your local municipality.

STYROFOAM COLLECTION SITES:
- Village of Algonquin
  110 Meyer Drive,
  Algonquin Public Works
  Open 24-7
- Algonquin Township
  Highway Department
  3700 US HWY 14
  Open 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. - Fri.
- COMING SOON...City of Woodstock Public Works!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

please circle level:
Supporting ($250)  Patron ($100)  Family/Basic ($50)

Young Professional ($30)  Student ($10) Senior ($25)

Name/s _____________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________
City, State & Zip______________________________________
E-mail ______________________________________________
Phone _______________________
Total contribution: $___________

Please mail to Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106 Woodstock, IL 60098.
April

Wed 4 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sun 8 | O’Brien Prairie Restoration Workday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tues 10 | STRAWS, a documentary film at MCC, 7 p.m.

Sat 21 | Earth Day, Prairieview Education Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat 22 | Human Race, MCC, 8 a.m.

Wed 25 | Solar panel program, McHenry Public Library, 7 p.m.

May

Wed 2 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thurs 3 to Sat 5 | Spring Garage Sale, Algonquin Township Road District, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat 5 | Boone Creek Cleanup, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun 13 | Des Plaines River Canoe Trip

June

Wed 6 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thurs 14 to Mon 18 | Green Spot Hallway Book Sale, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat 23 | Nippersink Creek Canoe Trip

Our Mission:
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.