Upcoming Events

**Time to Choose**
[April 18]
Documentary film at McHenry County College
7PM to 9PM

**Earth Day**
[April 22]
Annual celebration at Prairiewood Education Center
11AM to 4PM

**Member Tour**
[June 24]
Algonquin Waste Water Treatment Plant
9:30 to 11:30AM

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Award Winners Honored at Defenders’ Annual Dinner Meeting

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County was pleased to honor these individuals at their Annual Membership Dinner meeting held on March 12 at Park Place in Crystal Lake. From left to right: Mike Tryon received the Theta Award: the highest honor given to an individual or group for environmental service. Isabel Bernardi was the recipient of the Young Defenders Award: an award made to a young member to recognize outstanding volunteer service. Anne Basten, a 35-year member of The Defenders, received the Volunteer Award: the award given to a Defenders’ member to recognize superior volunteer efforts. And Jim Condon and Employees of McHenry Township Road District received the Government Award for the McHenry County governmental group that has made a significant contribution to environmental protection in the county during the past year. *Story page 8.*

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Documentary Film

It’s Movie Night!

**Time to Choose**

**Climate Change for Good**

Tuesday, April 18
7PM start, doors open at 6:30
McHenry County College
Luecht Conference Center

The documentary touches on climate change causes but devotes most of the time to solutions being used around the world to decrease, eliminate or fight climate change in various areas.

Charles Ferguson is the Academy-Award winning documentary filmmaker. Oscar Isaac narrates the film.

Co-sponsored with Citizens Climate Lobby and hosted by MCC’s Sustainability Center.

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"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."
- Lady Bird Johnson
BUSINESS & CIVIC MEMBERS

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

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

Algonquin Township Road District
www.algonquintownship.com
3702 US-14, Crystal Lake
847-639-2700

Algonquin/LITH
Chamber of Commerce
2114 W. Algonquin R., LITH
847-658-5300
info@ALChamber.com

Alpine Accessories
www.alpineaccessories.com
9219 South Rt. 31, Lake in the Hills
847-854-4754 sales@AlpineAccessories.com

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

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

Artland Story Group
http://artlandstorygroup.org
815-354-4831
Woodstock

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

Brothers Junk Removal
www.brothersjunkremoval.com
Woodstock
815-600-6697

Burseth Farm
www.bursethfarm.com
Store: 110 N. Benton Street
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-342-0745

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.copyexpressxes.com
301 E. Calhoun St., Woodstock
815-338-7161
copytalk@copyexpressxes.com

Crystal Lake Park District
http://crystallakeparks.org
One East Crystal Lake Ave.
815-459-0680
Dave’s Boat & Tackle
Like on FB
4419 Route 176, Crystal Lake
815-455-2040

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

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

Marvin’s Toy Store
www.marvinstoystore.com
64A N. Williams St., 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 Avenue
Woodstock
815-334-4213

Napoli Pizza Place
napoliswoodstock.com
930 Lake Ave. near Rte 47, Woodstock
815-338-2430

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

Red Buffalo Nursery
www.redbuffalonursery.com
10502 Seaman Rd, Hebron
jack@redbuffalonursery.com
815-648-4838

Sustainable Life, Inc.
sustainablelife@products@gmail.com
www.sustainablelife@products.com
815-276-9753

Wheel Werks Bikes
http://wheelwerksbikes.com
115 N. Main St., Crystal Lake
815-444-6897

Windridge Memorial Park
7014 S Rawson Bridge Rd., Cary

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:
Apple Creek Flowers
applecreekflowers.com

Crystal Lake Brewing
Crystallakebrew.com

Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen
Thedukeakeides.com

Respace, Inc.
Respaceinc.com

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

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About EarthConnect
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Citizens’ Climate Lobby: Only Half Right

By Don Wilkin

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is the most effective, grassroots, climate organization in the U.S. today. Schmoozing public officials from the city council to the U.S. senate, publishing letters to the editor and op-eds in any outlet that is receptive, CCL is pushing hard for the one thing everyone knows will reduce consumption of fossil fuels – make them more expensive. This is done with what they euphemistically call a carbon fee (a tax by any other name smells the same), starting at $15 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent where it enters the economy and rising by $10 per year thereafter. In the CCL proposal, this money is entirely returned, on a per capita basis, to the American public to ease the burden of rising energy costs.

So far, Federal action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) has been virtually nonexistent. If we continue worshiping growth and whistling down this “business-as-usual” road, by year 2100, we can look forward to typical summer days averaging 106 degrees Fahrenheit. And that’s just the average. Some days will be hotter. Instead of being surrounded by cornfields, northern Illinois will look more like Deming, New Mexico. When we finally burn through all the world’s proven fossil fuel reserves and perhaps the same amount more yet to be developed offshore, we will spend a minimum of 350 years with temperatures above the current consensus “safe” temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming above the pre-industrial average. That is the temperature above which we flirt seriously with runaway climate change, the most probable event being a methane catastrophe from melting tundra and melting methane clathrates from Arctic Ocean floors. Methane is 20 to 30 times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. “Runaway” temperatures mean we don’t really know where they will stop. Probably not at 106 degrees. And 350 years above 1.5 degrees Celsius may prove far too short a guess.

But, CCL’s remedy by itself, is too little too late. A fairly aggressive carbon tax (whoops, fee) of $135 per ton would see us in unsafe temperatures for 230 years or more. An extremely aggressive $270 per ton would leave us simmering for 175 years or more. The extent to which humanity could survive such climatic insults remains to be determined. That the global economy keeping so many of us alive would unravel is virtually certain. But, enough doom and gloom.

As an essential adjunct to coerced emissions reductions, the best hope we have of returning to pre-industrial temperatures in a reasonable time is through carbon farming. Using techniques developed by soil scientists, carbon farming removes carbon from the atmosphere and returns it to the soils where it benefits everyone. Our soils have lost from 50 to 70 percent of their natural carbon stores since pre-industrial times. They are not as fertile; are eroding faster, exacerbate both droughts and floods; and have lost the crumb structure that accommodates roots, air, and water. Carbon farming techniques include no-till, cover crops, greater diversity in both cash and cover crops, the use of animals to cycle carbon, and growing woody perennials.

Sadly, these practices have been around for a long time. But, farmers are sensible and too many of them live too close to the bone, financially, to be willing to experiment with them. Under current Farm Bill incentives, they can’t afford to go several years with no or minimal profits getting established in carbon farming. So they grow fence-row to fence-row GMO corn and reap the subsidies instead, meanwhile mining the soil.

If, however, a new Farm Bill was passed that paid farmers the same amount per ton of carbon that was paid in carbon taxes, they would have strong incentive to farm carbon in addition to their current cash crops. My model suggests that a fairly aggressive CO$_2$ emissions tax of $135 per ton coupled with a payment for carbon CO$_2$ sequestration of $135 per ton would reduce our exposure to unsafe temperatures to around 115 years. An extremely aggressive carbon tax and sequestration payment of $270 per ton would reduce that exposure to 89 years. And that’s about as good as it gets. We might...
be able to get that down to 75 years, but don’t count on it. In the meantime, farmers would be earning greater profits because of lower costs, not having to fertilize, till, or spray for weeds or bugs.

All of which says to me that CCL needs to promote carbon farming in the next (2018) Farm Bill as aggressively as it now promotes a carbon fee. What happens to the household dividend remains to be seen, but one has to wonder if bolstering household consumption makes sense when excessive consumption is precisely the problem. We won’t accomplish a safe climate any sooner than the end of this century in any case. And even to do that, we have to make our voices heard today for a combination of carbon sequestration and carbon farming. Write your congress-people. Go join a CCL chapter—or start one of your own. Then take up the drum for carbon farming AND a carbon fee. Your great-grandchildren will thank you.

Don Wilkin is a retired professor of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, specializing in Human Ecology. He is an Associate Director of the McHenry/Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District promoting carbon farming. His focus for the past 47 years has been Earth’s human population carrying capacity, which he reckons at under a billion people with a reasonable quality of life. The climate crisis and the ongoing sixth mass extinction are only two symptoms among many of how oversubscribed Earth’s ecosystems currently are. Don is a member of Citizens’ Climate Lobby McHenry County Chapter.

EarthConnect has a new look!

By Cynthia Kanner & Barb Day, Editors

You may have noticed, and it would be hard not to, that EarthConnect has a new look. This was done mostly by necessity to switch from one software package to another, but in the process, it has allowed for reflection of a decade as editors of The Environmental Defenders’ quarterly newsletter. Cynthia has worked from home on this project and used to sit and edit with a baby on her lap and now that baby is driving. Barb’s grandkids are growing up, too. We enjoy our sessions over breakfast for fine reflection of a decade—on EarthConnect.

A little history on EarthConnect: The first edition of the newsletter, which we called Nature Matters at the time, was in December 2006. This was a new look then for what was The Defenders’ monthly news brief. It’s 2017 now and it’s hard to believe that a decade has gone by since that first edition. Something to celebrate! The newsletter was renamed EarthConnect early on as it seemed to reflect better what we uphold as an environmental organization—our connection to the Earth and everything that it holds, and the hope of clean air, water, and land for us and future inhabitants. And we all know how time flies. So protecting and preserving now is the one and only way to protect the future of our planet.

We are happy to start a new decade with a fresh look and hope you’ll continue to enjoy EarthConnect as it connects you to the work we do and programs we offer.
EARTHCONNECT

Danger! Coal Tar Sealant

by Svetlana Taylor

Scientists have recently discovered a hidden danger that for many people in our area may practically be at their doorstep. It comes from parking lot sealants commonly used by sealcoating companies on public and private parking lots, driveways and playgrounds. The dangerous sealants are based on coal tar, which contains high levels of highly toxic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). Besides being toxic to humans and animals, PAHs are known to cause cancer and birth defects. EDMC has made it its goal to make the citizens and municipalities of McHenry County aware of this threat, so that something can be done to minimize exposure of people and the environment to PAHs. Government and citizens working together can bring about widespread replacement of the coal tar-based sealants with safer asphalt and synthetic-based alternatives. More detail on the issue of coal tar sealants and on what can and is being done about it is below. 1,3,5,6,7

How might people and the environment become exposed to PAHs?

PAHs can be inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through skin. All these routes of exposure can be dangerous to health. Coal tar sealant-covered driveways have PAH-containing dust, which can be tracked from outside into people’s homes. 1 Rain runoff from paved surfaces carries this dangerous dust to local streams, which subsequently flow into lakes and rivers that are used for recreation. This is also how aquatic organisms become exposed to PAHs.

How dangerous are PAHs coming from the coal tar sealants?

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted several studies on the health effects of PAHs from coal tar-covered parking lots and driveways. According to one study, the risk for those living next to such a pavement is 38 times higher than for those who are exposed only to urban background. 1 Another study was done close to home, in Lake in the Hills, and found that levels of benzo(a)pyrene (one of the PAH compounds) in dust from coal tar-covered driveways were up to 5,300 times higher than the level that triggers an EPA Superfund cleanup at polluted industrial sites. 2,3

Where are coal tar sealants used?

Coal tar sealants have traditionally been used by sealcoating companies in the eastern and central U.S. 8 It is estimated that 85 million tons of coal-based tar sealcoat is used annually. 8 Some companies in our area use safer asphalt-based sealants, but unless the company directly advertises this fact, chances are that a coal tar sealant will be applied. Organizations that use commercial sealcoating services; such as schools, municipalities, businesses, apartment complexes, churches, etc., should be able to provide information on what company they are using and might even know what type of sealant is applied on their grounds. Sealants sold at home improvement stores, such as Home Depot, Menards, Ace, and Lowes, are asphalt-based and have much lower concentrations of PAHs. 8

What is currently being done to address the issue of coal tar sealants?

A 2016 American Medical Association policy calls for legislation either to ban the use of coal tar sealants or to mandate the use of sealcoat products with minimal PAH content. 4 Several U.S. municipalities have issued a ban on the use of coal tar sealants. 5 Among them are Austin, TX (the first one to do so), South Barrington, IL, Winnetka, IL, Highland Park, IL and Wilmette, IL. 8 The states of Washington and Minnesota have issued a statewide ban. 8 Altogether, these communities represent over 20 million people!

What can the citizens of McHenry County do to reduce coal tar sealant use in our area?

McHenry County has adopted government-use restrictions, but no such restrictions exist for non-governmental organizations. McHenry County citizens can contact schools, libraries, churches, businesses, etc., and ask them what sealcoating companies they hire or what type of sealant is applied on their grounds. They can request that these organizations hire a company that uses asphalt-based sealants. It is also very important that citizens support legislation that restricts or bans the use of coal tar sealants in public places.

Currently, a bill (HB2958) that would ban the sale and use of coal tar and other sealants high in PAH compounds is being considered by the Illinois State House. McHenry County citizens can help by calling their state representatives and senators to ask them to co-sponsor this important bill. You can find out more information at http://www.ilga.gov/.

Svetlana Taylor is a member of the Defenders’ Water & Natural Resources Protection Committee. She is currently a student at Illinois Institute of Technology and will graduate this spring with a degree in Environmental engineering. Earlier this year she was awarded the American Chemical Society Division of Environmental Chemistry 2016 Undergraduate Award.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is very grateful to the McHenry County Community Foundation for their generous grant to support staffing needs at The Defenders’ office in Woodstock. The $10,000 grant will enable the organization to reach out to the Hispanic community in McHenry County and work on re-establishing efforts to bring regular Styrofoam collection sites back to McHenry County communities. It will also allow The Defenders to research additional fundraising options and ideas. The Environmental Defenders' staff and Board of Directors thanks MCCF for their support!

From Left to Right: John Buckley, Vice Chair, MCCF Board of Directors, Nancy Schietzelt, President of Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Cynthia Kanner, Outreach Coordinator, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and Robin Doeden, Executive Director, McHenry County Community Foundation.

Membership & Community

Environmental Scholarships Available

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is offering two Entering College scholarships of $1,000 each to two outstanding high school seniors planning to pursue careers related to environmental studies. To be eligible, 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 110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106, Woodstock, IL (in the Woodstock Square Mall.) The application and accompanying documents are due in the The Environmental Defenders’ office no later than April 24, 2017.

Village of Algonquin Wastewater Treatment Facility TOUR

Saturday, June 24, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
125 Wilbrandt Street, east side of IL Rt. 31

Defenders’ members are invited to learn about Algonquin’s wastewater treatment system at this special event. The facility’s design consideration and improvements over the years were made to comply with changing regulatory requirements, primarily the reduction of nutrients phosphorous and total nitrogen. In 2012, the facility received a nomination from the Illinois EPA for “Plant of the Year.” In that same year, the facility and team was the feature article in TPO (Treatment Plant Operator) magazine. Over the last four years, this team has created vegetable gardens in previously unused landscape beds at the facility, producing approximately 900 pounds of vegetables annually, all of which are donated locally to the Algonquin-LITH Food Pantry. Please RSVP to enviroyedefmc@gmail.com by June 21. Subject: Treatment Tour.

Hours
Tues -Fri: 11 AM to 4 PM
Saturday: 11 AM to 3 PM

110 S. Johnson Street
Woodstock Square Mall,
Woodstock
Credit cards accepted.
SPRING GARAGE SALE
Hours: 9AM-4PM
Set up/drop off donations:
Sun 4/30, hours 2-5PM
Mon 5/1 thru Wed 5/3
Hours: 10AM-3PM
Location: is Algonquin Township Road
District, 8900 Route 14 in Crystal
Lake. Clean house and donate your unwanted items in
good condition for our fundraiser!

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
McHenry County Conservation District’s (MCCD)
Prairieview Education Center, located at 2112 Behan
Road in Crystal Lake.
Saturday, April 22, 11AM to 4PM
Conservation booths, music, recycling, walks and more!

HALLWAY BOOK SALE
The Green Spot will have a Hallway Book Sale in June at
the Woodstock Square Mall, 110 S. Johnson Street from:
Thursday, June 15 through Saturday, June 17
Hours: 11AM to 4PM

GREEN DRINKS
April 5: Scott Hennings & Ben Redding - McHenry County Division of Transportation.
Hennings, Principal Transportation Planner and Redding, new Design Manager for the
McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT).
May 3: Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager at the McHenry County Conservation
District will speak about the Agricultural programs at the District that use Best Management
practices and encourage the protection of the flora, fauna and soils of the publicly held lands.
Green Drinks is held first Wednesday of each month from 5-7PM at Duke’s Alehouse &
Kitchen located at 110 N. Main Street, Crystal Lake.

CANOE TRIPS
Come out and enjoy what we work to protect...our waterways in
McHenry County and beyond! Simply contact the leader listed to
find out more details!

May 20...Des Plaines (Russell Rd Launch to Wadsworth Rd Launch:
meet up 9 am, should take about 3-4 hours/6.25 miles.)
   Leader: Cindy Skrukrud, cskrukrud@gmail.com
June 17...Nippersink
   Leader: Cindy Skrukrud, cskrukrud@gmail.com
July 29...Fox River
   Leader: Cynthia Kanner, cynkhanner@gmail.com
September 2 or 3...Kishwaukee River
   Leader: Neill Sachs, neillsachs@gmail.com

It's not too early to start thinking about MCC’s Green
Living Expo on November 4, 2017. Interested in
being a vendor? Email the sustainability center at
sustainability@McHenry.edu for an application.
Reflections

Annual Membership Dinner

*By Cynthia Kanner*

Approximately 120 members and their guests attended the 47th annual Membership Dinner Meeting on March 12. The event was once again held at Park Place in Crystal Lake—a wonderful setting and central location for members with ample room for the wonderful items available at the silent auction, which seems to get better every year.

Musicians Will Kruger and Mark Lawson were amazing and for those who were able to linger, they were in the presence of truly great musicianship.

As seen on the cover, the award winners were all present and included these annual awards: Theta Award, Volunteer Award, Young Defenders Award and Government Award. On the next page, for historical purposes, is the entire listing of Theta Award recipients since the beginning of The Defenders. The Theta was the original and only award for quite some time, while the Young Defenders Award is the newest.

Thank you to all of our members who supported this event by attending, to Apple Creek Flowers for donating the floral centerpieces, to The UPS Store of Crystal Lake for donating print costs of dinner programs and the 2016 annual report, and to Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen and Park Place for the wonderful food and venue, respectively.

A big thank you to The Defenders’ Fundraising Committee Members for their hard work on the auction and, of course, to the Membership Committee for working on the details that make this a special evening and one to remember.

On February 19, about 30 members enjoyed an afternoon of beer tasting and trivia games. Thanks to our trivia hosts Pam and Brad Johnson for the fun idea and to Crystal Lake Brewing for hosting! This was a great opportunity to support a local business and have fun with fellow Defenders.
Save the date for this special summer event!

Picnic, Prairie Restoration, and Ice Cream!
O’Brien Prairie
July 16, 4 – 6PM

A picnic, prairie restoration, and ice cream all rolled into one event! Sound fun? All three activities are included in the event the Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee is inviting you to on July 16th. O’Brien Prairie, located at the intersection of O’Brien Road and Route 47 north of Woodstock, is a site where Defenders’ members planted many prairie species a couple of decades ago—and many of those species are still thriving there. It also is the location of one of our four plantings for monarchs last spring, as well as a brush clearing event last Fall.

So, bring along a brown bag picnic and a lawn chair or blanket and meet us at the site at 4 p.m. We’ll enjoy a walk around the prairie to enjoy the many native species during their peak bloom period. While doing so, we’ll collect trash and remove all teasel and burdock from the area, as well as any remaining brush. All necessary equipment will be provided. When we finish, we’ll enjoy our picnics and head just up the road to the Dari Ice Cream Shop in Hebron where we can buy our favorite ice cream treats and celebrate our success of creating a better habitat for monarchs and other pollinators on the prairie!
Education & Advocacy

WINTER EDUCATION
& ADVOCACY EFFORTS
By Nancy Schietzelt

The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during Winter 2017 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.
- Presented a program about Defenders’ activities at the Algonquin Rotary Club.
- Continued our participation with the McHenry County Solid Waste Task Force.
- Worked with the Bioneers Committee, facilitated by the MCC Sustainability Center to present the Bioneers Speakers Series in February.
- Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Worked with the Chicago Living Corridors group to create their Strategic Plan.
- Continued to provide the Northwest Herald with an Environmental Tip for weekly publication.
- Gave a presentation to Loyola students at LUREC about chloride contamination in ground and surface waters.
- 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 the MCC Volunteer Fair to give students, faculty, and staff opportunities to volunteer to help protect the environment.
- Provided through our speakers’ bureau, a talk for Kane County Wild Ones on ecological restoration and native plants.
- Activated our members to file witness slips and to contact their State Legislators to support a statewide ban on coal tar sealants, to support a bill preventing communities from including common milkweed on their noxious weed lists, as well as supporting several bills to protect wildlife in Illinois.

We want to thank all of our members who took time out of their busy days to file a witness slip, or to write an email or make a phone call to their State Legislator during March. By doing this, you truly make a difference in how our legislators vote on issues. Thus, you help the Defenders fulfill our mission of preserving and protecting a healthy environment for all living things! Please continue your strong advocacy efforts!

YOUR DEFENDERS’ COMMITTEES:
HARD AT WORK

The Transportation Committee
The Defenders commented on the expansion of IDOT Route 31 project via an online submittal. With research and dedication, the Transportation Committee worked on comments and asked questions in reference to the impact and mitigation measures that the project has brought about. A handful of Defenders went to the public hearing on February 9 at the Shah Center in McHenry to learn about the project and the next phases to follow. The Transportation Committee has a new meeting schedule and place! We now meet at the Crystal Lake Public Library at 7PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

BYOBag is busy working on an ordinance to be introduced to towns over the next several months, introducing a charge for plastic and paper bags, much like we see in our communities already at Aldi stores, as well as regionally, in Evanston and Chicago. Look for an upcoming BYOBag presentation at Green Drinks!

Water & Natural Resource Protection Committee
We are planning some exciting and fun events for 2017 as outlined below (some information is included elsewhere in this newsletter.)


Bike ride and workday at the Triangle Prairie: April 2 (rain date: April 9)

Earth Day: April 22.

O’Brien walk/picnic/work day (teasel and burdock removal): July 16, 4-6 pm.

Monarch Mania: July 23.

It’s Our River day: September 16.

Boloria Meadows tour in August.

Make-a-Difference Day: October 28 on Environmental Defenders’ property on Dean Street.

Education Committee
We are busy working on scholarship applications, getting ready for “It’s Movie Night” showing of Time to Choose on April 18, Earth Day on April 22, and in the process of organizing another documentary film in May called, The Family Farm.
Recycling News

OUR YEAR HAS STARTED!
Barb Day, Chairman, Waste Reduction Committee

On March 11 we held our first 2017 recycling drive in McHenry. As usual, we had more success than we could handle. The one large trailer we had available was filled within the first two and one-half hours, requiring us to shut down the drive before we had planned or advertised to do. We apologize for closing our drive early. The volume of items filled our semi early, and we could not accommodate everyone. We are working on resolving that problem.

However, while we were open we collected a total of 16,588 pounds of materials. This included 140 televisions and 42 monitors (10,850 pounds), and 5,738 pounds of other electronics; computers, printers, household electronics, etc. We collected 268 pounds of batteries; at least 10 huge bags of Styrofoam; 70 pounds of aluminum; clothes; and more than 6 barrels of VHS and cassette tapes, CDs and DVDs. At this writing I do not have a number of the fluorescent tubes and bulbs we collected. There were lots.

Thirty-two volunteers helped with this event. This included students from Jacobs High School in Algonquin, Richmond-Burton High School and Crystal Lake South High School—a total of 15 students! Thank you so very much to all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn’t do it without you. Additionally, thank you Sue Jensen for the photo that appears here.

Our next drive will be April 8 at the Harvard City Hall, 201 W. Diggins Street, Harvard. On April 22, Earth Day, we will be at Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake from 11AM to 4PM. On April 29 we will be at Resurrection Catholic Church, 2918 Country Club Rd., Woodstock, from 9 AM to Noon. We will collect all of the items we normally take at our drives. There are no resident restrictions for these drives.

For those who live in McHenry Township, 3703 N. Richmond Road, our Board Member, Ken Santowski, has arranged with Township Road Commissioner, Jim Condon, to provide a semi-trailer to take electronics at the Township office. The drives will occur from 8AM to Noon, on April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, October 21 and November 18. (For details about those drives, please see www.mchenrytownship.com/recycling.html or call 815-385-3076 to get specifics about what will be taken.)

Again, thank you everyone who makes these events possible!

Acceptable Items:

- Fluorescent tubes, CFL bulbs, all alkaline, rechargeable, car and button batteries.
- Styrofoam, packing peanuts and re-useable bubble wrap. Electronics, anything with a plug or battery, such as computers, phones, printers, toys. TVs & computer monitors.

Please see our Website for additional information about these items and requested donations.

Check our Website: www.mcdef.org for updates as we roam the county!
Calendar of Events

Quick Look

APRIL

SAT 2 | Triangle Prairie Restoration, Woodstock. 2-4PM. Bike trail access & ice cream afterwards.

WED 5 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5PM to 7PM.

SAT 8 | Recycling Drive, Harvard City Hall

TUE 18 | Documentary Film, Time to Choose 7PM at McHenry County College

SAT 22 | Earth Day Celebration 11AM-4PM at MCCD’s Prairiewood View Ed Center

MAY

WED 3 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5PM to 7PM.

THURS 4-SAT 6 | Garage Sale at Algonquin Township Road District

SAT 20 | Recycling Drive, LITH

SAT 20 | Des Plaines River Canoe Trip

JUNE

WED 7 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5PM to 7PM.

SAT 10 | Recycling Drive, Richmond

SAT 17 | Nippersink Creek Canoe Trip

SAT 24 | Tour of Algonquin Waste Water Treatment Plant

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.