Former board member Sue Jensen is taking on a new role with the Defenders. We are so excited to introduce her as the new manager of The Green Read!

Sue is from Schaumburg, IL and has lived in Crystal Lake for the better part of 22 years, and has been working with the Defenders for 15 of those years. Like many other community members, Sue first found the Defenders when she attended a recycling drive because she needed to recycle an old computer. After that, Sue got involved with the Defenders’ recycling drives herself. She says at one recycling drive they filled four semis with recycled electronics, and that’s when she realized the volunteers needed help. She became active in other environmental organizations around the county and helped in pushing the local government to get more involved in the recycling efforts. Sue says for those few critical years she “lived, ate, and breathed recycling.” (Cont.)
FROM BOARD MEMBER TO STAFF CONT.

After becoming active in the organization she began taking on creative endeavors such as creating displays, painting the office and even designed The Green Read’s logo! After all, Sue was an elementary school art teacher for many years. Sue first joined the Defenders’ Board of Directors in the early 2010s and has been on the bookstore committee for several years. She loves art and the outdoors and is very excited to bring her creativity and artistic skill into the bookstore during her tenure as manager, and to learn more about books in the process.

From all of the Defenders, thank you so much Sue for your hard-work and contributions to the environment and McHenry County!

Thank You Pam!

BY NANCY SCHIETZELT

Pam Johnson would tell you that she got to “live her dream” of running a used bookstore during the 2 1/2 years that she worked as our part-time manager at the Green Read Used Book Store in Crystal Lake, and the Defenders benefitted greatly as a result. Pam took the store from bare walls and shelves to the organized, well-run, inviting shop that it is today. She managed the volunteers, ordered new stock, furnished the store, and in general kept everything running smoothly. So, we are very sad to see her leave us. But we’re happy for her as well, as she was offered and accepted a full-time position at Exceed Floor and Home in Crystal Lake. This job will take her back to her first career as a kitchen and bath designer. We’re very relieved that she intends to remain active with our Fundraising Committee, which she has been involved with since 2012. Thanks a million for all your work at the Green Read, Pam, and best wishes for success in your new job!

A Note from Your Executive Director

As you’ll see from the following pages, we are busy! We’ve had some changes, some unexpected, and all working out just beautifully. We have new faces in staff and board members, and as executive director, I feel incredibly fortunate to spend my career around such passionate, intelligent and generous people. You’ll read about all of these changes in depth through these pages. But briefly, as you may recall, last year we were fortunate to have received a generous two-year grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation to support operations, and that grant has been put toward the creation of a new position called Communication and Membership Specialist. While we hired Mallory Fischer to fill this position last October, come March of this year, Mallory announced that she would be moving to California. While her time working with us was short-lived, she instituted some creative changes and achieved some concrete goals, like setting up our first ever YouTube channel. With Mallory’s departure came a new staff search just after our annual meeting. I’m thankful for a fantastic search team and am ecstatic to introduce and welcome Destiny Seaton as our new Communication and Membership Specialist. (Cont.)
A NOTE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

As you can imagine, hiring staff was not simple during a pandemic! Destiny found our job post on LinkedIn and has just relocated from one beautiful state (Tennessee) to another. Passionate about the environment and with a background in journalism and photography, Destiny brings a fresh view only a newcomer to an area can. At this writing and with only two weeks on the job, Destiny is already making a difference. Other notable changes include the move of Sue Jensen from dedicated Board member to new Green Read book store manager! Sue was a regular volunteer at The Green Read so knows the ropes, has been on our Green Read book store committee, and as an artist, brings creativity to the position. We are also so excited to welcome new board members, Zak Dolezal, Jessica Beverley and Carl Edstrom. By the publication of this newsletter, our board will have met in person for the first time in well over a year, for which we are grateful. To close, I am so happy to report that we are the recipients of a $4,000 grant from Aptar Group Charitable Foundation to organize and hold a Sustainability Summit early in 2022, as well as other waste reduction efforts. Thank you to all who bring positive change to our part of the planet and to those who support us...you.

A Note From Your New Communication and Membership Specialist

Hello Defenders! First off, thank you all for the work you do to protect the environment. You are an inspiration. My name is Destiny Seaton, I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Communication and Membership Specialist for the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County.

I’m new to Illinois, having moved from middle Tennessee within the last month or so. I have already learned so much about the organization and the region, and quickly fallen in love with the prairies and bodies of water that make up McHenry County and the surrounding areas. Again, thank you for what you all contribute to those beautiful resources.

I recently graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Global Studies. I was a non-traditional student, motivated to continue my education after learning about environmental issues that would affect my daughter, and her children, for the foreseeable future. In coming to this realization I was made aware of how many people are inherently unaware of environmental issues that affect their families and communities. Armed with this information, I made it my goal to communicate with as many people as possible about the environment, which is what landed me on the Defenders’ team.

In my studies I did research about the most effective ways to utilize social media to communicate about climate change, and am looking forward to implementing what I learned to spread the word about the mission of the Defenders and recruit new people to be active environmental advocates. Additionally, I have studied abroad in Brazil, South Africa, Argentina, and Indonesia where I learned how different cultures interact with, are affected by and communicate about the environment. I hope to apply that cross-cultural knowledge to further the Defenders’ outreach.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to work for, and alongside, the organization in preserving, protecting and educating about the environment and can’t wait to see what the future holds.

Thank you for having me,
Destiny Seaton
A visually dazzling meditation on the delicate balance between human and nature, The Guardians elegantly interweaves the lives of the iconic monarch butterfly with an indigenous community in Mexico. Both depend on the same ancient forest for their survival and now face an uncertain future. Migrating 3,000 miles to hibernate in the towering Oyamels, the monarch population faces collapse, hitting a record low of 33 million, down from 1 billion just twenty years ago. In the valley below, the people of Donaciano Ojeda must carve out a sustainable future in their ancestral lands now part of the protected Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.

Join us for our July Green Screen Film showing!

Monday, July 26th at 7pm at McHenry County College in the Luecht Auditorium

The Guardians

*A visually dazzling meditation on the delicate balance between human and nature, The Guardians elegantly interweaves the lives of the iconic monarch butterfly with an indigenous community in Mexico. Both depend on the same ancient forest for their survival and now face an uncertain future. Migrating 3,000 miles to hibernate in the towering Oyamels, the monarch population faces collapse, hitting a record low of 33 million, down from 1 billion just twenty years ago. In the valley below, the people of Donaciano Ojeda must carve out a sustainable future in their ancestral lands now part of the protected Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.*

Movie is 1 hour and 10 minutes long.

Doors open at 6:30

Brought to you by The Education Action Team and McHenry County College Sustainability Center

Meet Our Summer 2021 Interns!

A Note From Haley:
Hi! My name is Haley Wegener, and I am from Crystal Lake, Illinois. I am going to be a sophomore at Iowa State University this fall, and I am double majoring in Political Science and Environmental Studies. I also plan to minor in Spanish, and possibly study abroad. My goals for the future are to attend law school and become an Environmental Lawyer. My particular interests with this internship are pollinators and solar energy, so those are a few things I will be focusing on. Some of my goals with this internship are to learn a lot about the environment and make progress on a few projects that have to do with my interests. I cannot wait to continue to work more with the Defenders this summer!

A Note From Ian:
My name is Ian Shuman, and I am originally from Crystal Lake, Illinois. I currently attend the University of Notre Dame, where I study Biological Sciences and Spanish. This summer, I hope to focus on “Landscape Genealogy,” or using historical records of land to guide management decisions, as well as water quality/stream ecology projects. In the future, I’m not entirely sure what I want to do, as I’m torn between a career in biology research, working in the field or maybe even medical school!
RECYCLING “TOGETHER UNDER THE STARS”  
BY AMANDA HARME

On May 7, Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 held their combined prom for Woodstock North High School and Woodstock High School. About a month prior, a committee of around 20 people met to divvy up tasks and prepare for this wonderful event. Location, food options, COVID protocols, favors and decorations were all discussed and assigned to various members of the group.

One of the important items for me personally was to ensure that we had the opportunity for the students to recycle. Our food and drinks had to be in disposable containers, much different than past proms. So, I ran the idea of having recycling past the committee, and they were on board. I knew I could count on the Environmental Defenders to help out. A quick call to Cynthia, and she was giving me all kinds of ideas on how we could make this a success. She was very kind and offered the use of their recycling frames to make the recycling locations easy to spot.

Initially, I was worried that students might throw trash in the recycling, making a mess to try to clean up and sort, but that wasn’t the case! The students knew exactly what could go in the recycling and the frames make it easy to keep it to just plastic, glass and aluminum, based on the circular openings in the top.

In the end, this wasn’t a perfect, waste-free endeavor. While we did have the students recycling, we have room for improvement. I’m excited to see what the future holds and how we can continue to grow our recycling efforts during these types of events, not just with the school district, but with the community as a whole. We are very fortunate to have the Environmental Defenders working passionately to support all who reach out.

Planning for “Together Under the Stars” was fast, and thanks to the amazing team of staff, community members and parents, it was a huge success (for the kids and the environment)!

THE WOODSTOCK NORTH SENIOR PROM KING, BRANDON WALKER, RECYCLES HIS ALUMINUM CAN IN THE RECYCLING FRAME PROVIDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Nuts and Bolts of Curbside Composting  
By Cecilia Carman

We all live in McHenry County, but it doesn’t mean we are all the same. Where you live can determine how “green” you can be. We all have a hauler that takes our garbage and recycling, but what else can they do for us? Many may compost in their backyard, but not every resident wants to keep their scraps, or there may be food items that just take too long to decompose in a residential compost bin. If you are lucky to have Flood Brothers or Prairieland Disposal, you should be offered curbside composting. But they do not automatically provide this service. Who your town decides to contract with is decided by your Public Works Department, and then approved by your Village Board. These contracts can be 3-5 years and normally not amended.

Lake in the Hills residents can place their food scraps in their yard waste if they call Flood Brothers and sign up at no additional cost. Cary also uses Flood Brothers, but they do not have this service because the town didn’t sign up for it. Cary residents need to speak to their Village Board to gain access to curbside composting.

Prairieland Disposal is offering curbside composting in every town they serve. Crystal Lake is taking it one step further: since yard waste is not collected year round, they have asked Prairieland to offer curbside composting all year ‘round. Residents will have to pay a fee for winter pick up, but it seems like a great service. (Cont.)
MCHENRY COUNTY STREAM CROSSING SIGNAGE UPDATE!

BY NANCY SCHIETZEL

The stream signs that you read about in the Spring Newsletter are being installed! As you may remember, this is a joint project between the Defenders and the McHenry County Division of Transportation. The Defenders are providing the funding through a grant from the Full Circle Foundation, and MCDOT is making the signs and installing them. It’s a great partnership that will result in more awareness of the health and safety of our streams and watersheds. So, as you’re driving the roads in the western part of the County, keep your eyes out for these beautiful, educational signs!

Nuts and Bolts of Curbside Composting Cont.

For our McHenry residents who use Groot, you have an interesting dilemma. There are six service areas, and they do not all provide the same services. The towns of Volo, Round Lake, Bull Valley and Prairie Grove do have curbside composting, but the towns of Algonquin and Barrington Hills do not. I did not investigate if these towns can change their service area, but they can change their hauler. For the rest of McHenry County, you are serviced by Waste Management, Marengo Disposal, MDC or Lake Disposal. None of these companies offer curbside composting.

Reducing waste by composting is high on the list for our Waste Reduction Team. We would like to see all our towns provided with curbside composting to make it easy and convenient for everyone. Many of us have new elected officials, and I challenge you to email or attend a Village Board Meeting and ask if your town can have curbside composting. Now, curbside electronic recycling is a whole other topic we can tackle next time.

Grow, Eat, Compost, Repeat!

Dean St Burn

Our Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team members were so pleased to conduct a very successful prescribed burn on our Dean Street Property this Spring. It will be fun to watch all of the changes that will occur on the site after the burn and as restoration workdays to remove invasive species continue there. You can take a walk on our property any time to check out the changes by parking at MCCD’s Kishwaukee Headwaters on Dean Street and walking North from there. If you would like to help with restoration workdays, please notify the office.
Greetings from Our New Board Members!

Hi, I'm Jessica Beverly. My family moved to Woodstock in September, and the first thing I did was join the Environmental Defenders. I am passionate about the mission to conserve and protect all living things, and I have admired the work that the organization has accomplished for some time. The history, passion and energy Defenders volunteers bring to environmental conservation is truly inspiring. In my professional career I am a Clean Energy Advocate for the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter. I work on state and local policy issues surrounding the equitable adoption of clean energy and our transition away from fossil fuels. In my personal life, I am a mother of two young boys and my husband and I own a 9-acre property just outside of downtown Woodstock. We are raising chickens and a very large vegetable garden this year and plan to expand to goats and wetland restoration in the coming years. I also serve as an alternate on the McHenry County Zoning Board, and I have a passion for organizing around local issues affecting the environment and social justice. You can usually find me on a conference call in my garden any given day of the week. I'm excited to serve in this new role as a board member, and I cannot wait to get to know more of you and learn about your interests and passions.

My name is Zak Dolezal. I am Chef/Owner of Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen in downtown Crystal Lake. Duke's has been in my family since 1995. In 2008 I took it over from my dad and converted it into a farm to table tavern and restaurant. Seasonal produce and locally sourced products are my passion. I love gardening, building forts and going on bike rides with my 3 children Wendell, Ruby and Sawyer. I have worked with the Environmental Defenders since I came to Crystal Lake and have always wanted to get more involved. I finally found a way to get it into my busy schedule. I look forward to working with the Defenders and building a better tomorrow for the planet and its inhabitants.

My wife, Carolyn Campbell, and I have been residents of Crystal Lake for 33 years. We raised our three (now) adult sons here, and have been actively making our lives and our home more sustainable over the past several years. We were the first Crystal Lake residents to install a geothermal heating and cooling system at our home, added solar panels to the roof the following year and replaced our 20-year-old minivan with an electric car three years ago. Now I'm doing my best to learn the difference between a weed and a wildflower in our ever-expanding native garden.

I have been a market research consultant for 36 years, helping companies understand the motivations behind people's behavior, and the barriers to doing things they say they want to (or should) do.

I've been a long-time admirer of the Defenders, and volunteered for the Board to become more directly involved in efforts to drive local actions that result in a more sustainable future.

In my spare time, I try to get around town on a bicycle as often as possible, and hope to one day play more than a few chords on a guitar!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
4PM to 8PM
Soulful Prairies
4706 Alden Rd, Woodstock, IL

After a long year of waiting for our first Farm to Table fundraising dinner, which was to take place during our special 50th anniversary year, we are pleased to invite you to Soulful Prairies on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021. Enjoy fresh veggies from Soulful Farms (right on-site) as well as select products from Terra Vitae Farms. Chef Zak Dolezal, new Environmental Defenders’ Board Member and Owner/Chef at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen will prepare your meat-based and vegetarian optional dinners and enjoy s’mores fireside afterwards.

$100 per person

Please RSVP by September 12 using one of three ways: The envelope provided in the hardcopy EarthConnect newsletter

Online using the following link: http://mcdef.org/farm-to-table-dinner

Send a check made out to EDMC for ‘EMDC Farm to Table Dinner’ to
110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106
Woodstock, IL 60098

Members of the Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team have been weeding and watering our pollinator garden at the Fairgrounds, so it will look its best for the County Fair August 3-8. We hope you’ll visit us and the garden, as well as all the other conservation groups, in the Conservation World Tent while you’re at the Fair!
McHenry County’s New Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP)

By Scott Kuykendall, Water Resources Specialist

Water is necessary for life, health, and economic opportunity. McHenry County is very fortunate to have numerous streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands that provide rich habitat, recreational opportunities and natural beauty. The county is also fortunate to contain multiple types of groundwater aquifers which supply all of the drinking water in McHenry County.

The scale and quality of these water resources are unique and contribute to an attractive quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors. However, these water resources are vulnerable and need to be protected or restored in order to continue providing the benefits that we depend on. Fortunately, McHenry County has long been a leader in water resource protection.

This leadership includes the preparation of a new Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP). At the direction of the County Board, a WRAP Task Force was created in 2019 to update the Plan using the latest science, trends and analysis. The Task Force was composed of a diverse group of over 120 volunteers including representatives from municipalities, environmental groups, engineering firms, businesses and interested residents. Staff from the Department of Planning and Development oversaw the Task Force meetings and development of the Plan.

The updated WRAP serves as a resource that residents, businesses, municipal staff and elected officials can use to understand McHenry County’s water resources. It consists of 18 Chapters that describe the groundwater and surface water resources in McHenry County, identify potential threats to those resources and provide best management practices that can be used to protect them. The Fourth Annual McHenry County Water Forum was held on June 16, 2021 and included presentations about the WRAP and the county’s water. Links to videos of the Water Forum can be found on the Environmental Defenders Facebook page and on the County’s Water Resources website at McHenryH2O.com.

The WRAP was adopted by the County Board in November 2020 and the draft version is currently available online. A professionally published version of the WRAP is nearly complete and includes a comprehensive index to help quickly identify specific topics of interest and enhanced graphics to be visually engaging. The professionally published WRAP will be available in July. A limited number of hardcopies will be printed and a user-friendly web version will be provided on the County’s Water Resources website. For more information and to view the WRAP please visit McHenryH2O.com or contact me at SHKuykendall@mchenrycountyil.gov.
DEFENDERS’ SUMMER GARAGE SALE

BY FRED FORTMAN AND ANNE BASTEN

YES! We are having a Summer Garage Sale! It’s time to start gathering your donations for this sale!

We are looking for gently used household items and tools. All items must be CLEAN and in WORKING ORDER with all their parts. If it needs a cord to run, please make sure you include the cord and any rechargeable battery packs. We get a lot of interest in basic tools so if you have some to spare we’d love to have them to raise funds for the Defenders. Other items that sell well are: toys in working order, tableware and serving pieces, household items, seating and yard and garden tools.

Sorry, we cannot accept the following items: clothing, stuffed animals, kitchen appliances that are not CLEAN throughout, non-working small appliances, large appliances, TVs or computers or computer monitors. Please be thoughtful when choosing your items for donation. Remember that if it does not sell, we may have to take it home with us for disposal!

Volunteers are needed for pricing and organizing donations, overseeing the sales dates, and clean up. Go to the link below to sign up to volunteer for the event. Once on the site, scroll down to "Agency Needs," click "View Details" then click "Respond," and enter your information.

https://volunteertermchenrycounty.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=59570

Questions About Donating To The Garage Sale?

Please contact The Defenders Office at:

(815) 338-0393

Thank you!

Donation Drop-Off Dates:

Sunday July 11th
2:00 to 5:00pm

Monday July 12th through Wednesday July 14th
10:00am to 4:00pm

Garage Sale Dates:

Thursday July 15th through Saturday July 17th
9:00am - 4:00pm

Location:

The Algonquin Township Road District
3702 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Building B - Garage
Please drive to the garage at the back of the property

Please bear with us. This is a new digital program, but your logins were transferred from the old "SignUp" program, which is no longer active for our volunteers. If you would rather, you can call Anne Basten at 815.344.5647 to sign up for a time slot - please leave her a message and she will get back to you. Any questions can be directed to Anne or Nancy Schietzelt, or through the Defenders Office. Somehow we will get you an answer!
Earth Day at Prairie View was an all-day outdoor event wherein we hosted a Monarch Migration game, as well as butterfly crafts. We shared our space and teamed with the Defenders Education Action Team who offered a Recycle Relay game.

North Elementary staff, families and students worked with MCSEEP to build and prepare two 4’x8’ raised garden beds in mid-May. Pumpkins and tomatoes were planted for late summer and early fall harvesting.

On June 8th MCSEEP traveled to the Goddard school in Lake in the Hills to offer primary lessons to students about worms involving observations, tactile experiences with real worms, drawing their specimen and using "dirt paint" to finish the art experience - symbolically representing worm habitat.

MCSEEP participated in the re-opening activities of all things butterflies at the Crystal Lake Nature Center in Crystal Lake on June 5th. We had a trifold of information, a larger than life 3-D crocheted monarch caterpillar and caterpillar bracelet making.

Our first Farmer's Market morning on June 12th offered exploration of our room upstairs with a theme of all things water! There were groundwater models, watershed models and water cycle bracelet making.

Please contact us at mcseepdirector@gmail.com if you are interested in our curriculum and new platform for presenting and interacting with your students to keep environmental education alive!
Join the Transportation Action Team for The Defenders’ Annual Bike Ride! We’ll meet at Towne Park in Algonquin (100 Jefferson Street) and ride north toward Crystal Lake, partially following the sparkling Crystal Creek. After a 10-15-mile roundtrip ride, on the way back to Towne Park, we’ll take the new trail to Scorched Earth Brewery for a cold one. Meet at 2PM at Towne Park, Village of Algonquin on Saturday, July 31st. For questions, contact Gary Kanner (pictured to the right) at kannergary@gmail.com.

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT BY BROWSING THE WEB

BY IAN SHUMAN

Calling all Defenders members! Want to help the environment just by browsing the web on your computer or phone? Ecosia is the opportunity for you! Ecosia is a free new search engine which commits to using its profits to fund environmental efforts and tree planting around the world. Like Google, Firefox, Bing and other search engines, you can type your query into a search box and Ecosia will find the most relevant results. Ecosia will display ads alongside those regular results, and when someone clicks on an ad, Ecosia makes money. The only difference is that instead of funding a wealthy tech company like the other search engines, Ecosia uses the profit to plant trees and protect the environment. So far, Ecosia has funded the planting of over 127,000,000 trees!

Ecosia even protects user privacy in ways that other search engines do not, as they don’t sell your data or track your searches. As a Certified B Corporation, Ecosia meets the highest standards of social and environmental performance, and it maintains a high level of public transparency, so you know the revenue you generate is being used to plant trees. If you’re worried about effective search results, remember that you can always try searching Ecosia first, and if you can’t find what you’re looking for, other more comprehensive search engines can serve as a backup. Unless you’re searching for something particularly obscure, however, Ecosia will serve your everyday internet needs. Installing Ecosia is easy, just visit https://info.ecosia.org/what to get started on your computer, or download the mobile app for your phone! If you have any questions about Ecosia or how to install the search engine, please contact Ian Shuman, one of the Environmental Defenders’ Summer Interns, at Shuman95100@gmail.com.
Welcome New Defenders' Members!

Richard Bertucco- Woodstock
Jim and Becky Long- Crystal Lake
Lynn Maestro- Crystal Lake
Katherine Meyer- Crystal Lake
Laura Nelson- Port Barrington
Vanessa Olandese- Woodstock
Kiena Parpart- Wonder Lake
Penny Peterson- McHenry
Seraphina Schoorek- Hampshire
Linda Thomas- Bull Valley
Gary and Judy Wilhelm- McHenry
Mary Zwiefelhofer- McHenry
Alice Benedict- Huntley
Robbie Balan- Fox Lake
Michael Vijuk- Cary
Drew Knobloch- Spring Grove
Michael Bissett- Lake In The Hills
Kristy Smith- Crystal Lake
Amelia Pantone- Crystal Lake

Thank You Ed!
By Nancy Schietzelt

Ed Ellinghausen has decided it’s time to retire from the Defenders’ Board after serving as a very valuable member for 15 years! During that time, he has filled many roles that have aided the Defenders in protecting our environment.

As a member of our Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team, Ed has served as part of the Technical Advisor group during preparation of the McHenry County Groundwater Action Plan. He co-authored a study leading to creation of the McHenry County Strategic Aquifer Research Area map (SARA map), which is now used in all county zoning and permitting decisions. Ed has also been the researcher and author of several studies on local chloride contamination of groundwater, particularly in Boone Creek. His studies on chloride contamination continue to this day with the help of our summer interns. For many years, Ed has been the Board’s designated representative on the Woodstock Environmental Commission. Thankfully, he is willing to continue serving in that capacity as well as remaining a member of our Water and Natural Resources Action Team. In addition to his environmental involvement, Ed has held elected office for many years as a Trustee for the Village of Bull Valley. We so appreciate all of Ed’s work as a Board Member over these many years! We thank you so much, Ed, and we wish you the best in your retirement time!

Boone Creek Clean-up

Forty pounds of trash were removed from the banks of Boone Creek and along the bike trail by Defenders’ members as part of the multi-group, multi-location effort to clean up the Fox River. No large item was found, so all the weight consisted of hundreds of small pieces of trash - plastic bags, masks, antibacterial wipes, etc. All of these items would have eventually found their way into the stream, so we feel very good about preventing that! Thanks to our volunteers: Anne Basten, Nancy Schietzelt and Brandie Dunn.
Thank You Juanita!

By Cynthia Kanner

I met Juanita Vega a few years ago because of plastic bags. I was attending meetings to advocate for a charge for single-use plastic bags at the City of Woodstock and Juanita is on the Social & Cultural Awareness Commission, which meets at the same time as the Environmental Commission. She is passionate about reducing the use of single-use plastics, as well as engaging the Latino community in our county.

The Environmental Defenders had just started a Latino Outreach Program, which continues today, so I called Juanita after a Commission meeting one day and we talked about all that we had in common. Juanita is also eager to engage with the Latino community on environmental issues and invited me to introduce The Defenders at a Hispanic Connections Woodstock meeting to talk about our organization. As we got to know one another, I asked if she would consider joining our Board, which happily, she did. Soon after, I started attending Hispanic Connection’s monthly meetings. But, due to a very busy life, both professional and family, Juanita needed to resign from our Board after two years. The great news is, Juanita is a vital partner in our Conversacion de Conservacion group made up of The Environmental Defenders, Hispanic Connections Woodstock, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, the McHenry County Conservation District and Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. We now enjoy the company of Lupe Ortiz, Executive Director of the Youth & Family Center of McHenry County, in our planning as well. Together, our goal is to connect with Latino families and professionals in McHenry County over conservation and environmental issues. So, while no longer on our Board, our ties are strong and we look forward to continuing to work with Juanita in many ways. Thank you for your service to The Defenders, Juanita!

Annual Corn Roast Gathering

IT’S BACK!!!

You must be fully vaccinated to enjoy this time together.

By Alice and Bill Howenstine

After a year’s break due to COVID-19, we invite you once again to join us at Pioneer Tree Farm, 4614 Pioneer Road, located three miles north of McHenry, for the Environmental Defenders’ ANNUAL CORN ROAST!

Get caught up on all things Defenders, enjoy roasted corn, clay-oven pizza and shared dishes. The summer celebration will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2021. Enjoy hours of fresh air, fun with family and Environmental Defenders’ members beginning at 4 PM. There will be lots of activities, including informal nature walks, outdoor games, feeding the chickens, hayrides and more! Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share; labeled serving utensils; and your own non-disposable plates, cups and flatware. Help is needed this year, so please respond with your ability to volunteer for these activities: corn roasters, pizza makers, set-up/clean-uppers. Please give us a call at 815-385-8512 or email defendersdirector@gmail.com.

While at the Corn Roast, you will have the first opportunity of the year to sign up for a day of work at Pioneer Tree Farm during Christmas tree-cutting season, in part a fundraiser for The Defenders. The trees are looking terrific as you’ll see when you attend the Corn Roast! Again, you must be fully vaccinated to enjoy this time together. Hope to see you soon!!
Meet Our Scholarship Winners!
We are very pleased and proud to announce this year’s Environmental Scholarship Recipients: Meghan McCann, Jayne Strang and Grace Rogers. Meghan is a graduate of Woodstock North High School and will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she will pursue a major in biochemistry. Meghan will be residing in the University’s Sustainable Residence Hall where she’ll be surrounded by other students interested in environmental and sustainability practices. Grace Rogers, a graduate of Prairie Ridge High School, will be attending Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and is planning to study environmental science and sociology. Grace is excited to look into the many environmental/sustainability clubs and visit the school’s 600-acre arboretum. Grace is interested in a possible future in environmental policy writing and environmental aspects of urban planning. Jayne Strang, also a graduate of Woodstock North High School, will be attending Oregon State University and plans to study environmental science and geology with a focus on hydrology. Jay is really looking forward to getting involved in all things water. We congratulate all the recipients and thank our team of reviewers, Kim Compton, Leslie Krebs and Bill Kreznor.
**July**

**11th - 17th | Garage Sale**
Drop off: 11th-14th
Sale: 15th-17th
9:00am - 4:00pm daily
Algonquin Township Road District

**26th | Green Screen Film Series**
7:00pm
McHenry County College Luecht Auditorium

**31st | Annual Bike Ride**
2:00pm
Towne Park, Village of Algonquin

**August**

**3rd-8th | McHenry County Fair**
Conservation World Tent

**14th | Corn Roast**
4:00pm- 8pm
Pioneer Tree Farm, McHenry

**September**

**18th | It's Our River Day**
TBD

**26th | Farm to Table Dinner**
4:00pm- 8pm
Soulful Prairies, McHenry

**Recurring Events**

**FIRST WED OF EVERY MONTH | Green Drinks**
Co-sponsored by The Environmental Defenders & Duke's Alehouse & Kitchen
6:00 - 7:00pm
Virtually on Zoom and limited in-person at Duke’s (Registration required)

**FOURTH SUN OF EVERY MONTH | Sterne's Fen Restoration Work Day**
9:00 - 11:00am
5617 Hillside Dr, Crystal Lake

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

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