Grant Awarded by the Grand Victoria Foundation

By Cynthia Kanner

I couldn’t be more excited or pleased to announce that the Grand Victoria Foundation has awarded The Environmental Defenders a grant for general operating support in the amount of $25,000. The Defenders is grateful that this grant will allow for strengthened outreach to under-represented communities within The Defenders’ family and the opportunity to be inclusive of the needs of all who reside in McHenry County in order to help further the essential work of environmental preservation and protection.

This generous grant will help to grow The Defenders’ connection to all those who reside in our county and will help to strengthen our program that strives to reach out to the Latino community as well as others. This will allow The Defenders to expand the visibility of the organization and share its vision for McHenry County toward one of inclusivity and equity. Receipt of the grant will also allow for improved support and communication internally between staff and committee chairs, while successfully connecting members with subject areas of interest, from water resource protection to alternative transportation to waste reduction. In addition, the grant will allow for the continuation and expansion of a relatively new program of environmental advocacy training for members and the general public who are willing to become “environmental ambassadors.” Our ambassadors keep abreast of actions that involve the environment at both the city or village and county levels through reviewing meeting agendas, attending meetings and hearings, and speaking during public comment (or by simply observing). Through our ambassadors, The Defenders can count on widening and deepening our knowledge of decisions affecting our environment throughout the county. Our next training session is on July 16 and we invite everyone interested in learning more about this program to attend.

Thank you to the Grand Victoria Foundation for this support and confidence in our organization and for the opportunity to expand and strengthen all that we do while engaging new areas and deepening our roots!
### BUSINESS & CIVIC MEMBERS

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<tr>
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### About EarthConnect

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Bike (and Walk) Education in Schools: Going Beyond Minimal Safety
by Todd Nelson, VP, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates, Cycling-Savvy Instructor, Member-Environmental Defenders Transportation Committee

There are a lot of reasons to bicycle or walk, instead of driving a car, for local transportation. Immediate benefits include the invigoration of exercise, taking in fresh air and absorbing sunshine. Cares melt away as endorphins and dopamine are released to your brain. Hopefully, the cares aren’t replaced by concerns of safety on the bicycle, especially if you are riding on streets shared with automobiles. Yet, studies have found that the health benefits outweigh the safety concerns. Furthermore, you are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving wear and tear on your car, saving money on gasoline, reducing traffic congestion, calming traffic and getting to know your neighbors and neighborhood better, to name a few.

So why don’t we require public schools to teach bicycling as a life skill beyond biking and walking safety? Illinois schools with grades K - 8 will, hopefully, be getting positive results as they comply with Public Act 100-1056, known as the Bike Walk Education in Schools Act (BWESA) signed into law last August by the governor of Illinois.

Background:

Illinois crash data shows that nearly five children are hit by drivers every day while walking or biking within one block of a school. Proper education can reduce those incidents. BWESA clarifies the existing traffic-safety, K-8 school curriculum requirement to specifically include biking and walking safety.

Children who bike and walk to school are healthier and do better in school on average. Traveling to school by foot or bike gives parents more free time and limits traffic congestion. Remarkably, Illinois’ School Code requires automobile safety education, but there is no requirement that education include instruction on how to bike and walk safely.

Ironically, kids are being injured walking and biking every day in Illinois. Lower levels of physical activity among children are contributing to a public health crisis:

- Too many children are hit by cars near schools.
- Over the last thirty years, childhood obesity has tripled in the U.S., and Illinois ranks ninth in the nation in obese adolescents ages 10 to 17.
- Walking and biking safely helps kids get more physical activity, reducing the risk of obesity and promoting good overall health.

Walking and biking provides freedom of choice in transportation at all ages and is empowering.

What the new law states:

Traffic injury prevention–policy. The school board of a school district that maintains any of grades kindergarten through 8 shall adopt a policy on educating students on the effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling, which education must be made available to students in grades kindergarten through 8. The law does not specify how a school district provides this instruction, and we want to make sure that the instruction is meaningful.

We need your help to encourage the McHenry County schools’ boards of education to comply with the law to include meaningful biking and walking safety instruction into their curriculum through resources which we can provide. You can sign up as a school district liaison for your school district in McHenry County and work with the district to update their curriculum. The Active Transportation Alliance has put together a toolkit of resources to assist in this process. If you want to know more, please contact Todd Nelson at tnelsn@yahoo.com or call 847-337-3878.

The McHenry County Bicycle Advocates’ position is: Transportation bicycling proficiency should be a prerequisite or, as a minimum, be included as advanced credit for driver education. Follow this link to our website and the full article, if you would like to help us pursue that goal. Or leave us a note at: http://mcbicycleadvocates.org/contacts--report.html.

This program is endorsed by The Defenders’ Transportation Committee.

Local Voices Making A Difference on Climate Change
by Jessica Campbell

“My constituents just don’t care about climate change.” This is what members of Congress often say when asked why they aren’t working on climate solutions. They don’t think it’s a top priority for the people back home, so it isn’t on top of their to-do list in Washington, D.C.

Voters, however, increasingly do see climate as a top priority, according to a poll conducted earlier this year by the League of Conservation Voters and other environmental groups. Local volunteers with the Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) are working to ensure our representatives know this.

The McHenry County Chapter of CCL has started a Dialing Congress Campaign to change elected officials’ perceptions of the importance their constituents place on climate change. Volunteers will sign up to call their representative once a month. The goal is for the representative to hear from at least one constituent every day. If their phones are ringing, they’ll start paying attention.

Calls will also reinforce the message two McHenry County volunteers took to Washington, D.C., in person this June. Beth Holland and Jim Thrall joined nearly 1,000 CCL volunteers from around the country at CCL’s 10th annual International Conference and Lobby Day. They met with Rep. Lauren Underwood to encourage her to support the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763), which would put a fee on all oil, gas, and coal we use in the United States and return the money collected to households as a monthly rebate. The bill will drive down carbon pollution by encouraging a shift to cleaner energy options. Anyone interested in joining the Dialing Congress Campaign can email McHenryCCL@gmail.com for details.
Welcome to Our New Board Members!

**Dr. Bev Dow**  
*by Kim Hankins*

Meet our new Board Member, Dr. Bev Dow. Bev has a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She was a Biology Instructor at McHenry County College for 17 years prior to her retirement in May, 2019. Bev has had a lifelong interest in natural history and conservation, and has been a member of EDMC for several years. Four years ago, she began a half-acre wet meadow restoration project on the farm she shares with her husband. Bev is an avid gardener and proud owner of a small flock of laying hens.

**Juanita Vega**  
*by Cynthia Kanner*

The Defenders is so pleased to welcome Juanita Vega to our Board of Directors. Juanita is President of Hispanic Connections in Woodstock and is Chair of the City of Woodstock’s Social and Cultural Awareness Commission. She is Managing Associate with MassMutual Insurance in Downers Grove. A native of Colombia, Juanita has three children and is very active with promoting programs for and with the Hispanic community, including the annual Mexican Independence Day Celebration in Woodstock, which will be held on Sunday, September 15, this year. Juanita is also a business member of The Defenders and attends many of our programs. She was present at the opening at The Green Read Book store, as the photo shown here with her young son proves.

We also welcome Zak Klehr, voted to the board after newsletter deadline. Learn all about Zak in our fall edition of EarthConnect!

**Defenders’ Summer Interns**  
*by Cynthia Kanner*

The Environmental Defenders is very excited to welcome three interns this summer who will be working on projects to help preserve and protect the environment.

Our first intern is Krista Park who has just completed her first year at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida where she is double majoring in Marine Science, with a biology track in mind, and Environmental Studies. She is already busy at work with our single-use plastic reduction program.

The second half of summer we will welcome Jacob Karkowski. You may recognize his name. Jacob is our recent Young Defender’s Award recipient. He is studying Forestry: Ecosystem Restoration with a minor in conservation biology at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Isabel Dunn will also join us second half of summer and was one of our environmental scholarship winners last year and a graduate of Johnsburg H. S. She is studying Water Resources also at the U of W, Stevens Point and is interested in the chemical and biological aspects of water resource management. Both Jacob and Isabel will be working closely with our Water & Natural Resources Protection Committee.

Thanks, in part, to a grant from the Community Foundation for McHenry County through their Give 360 program our interns this summer will all receive a stipend.

**Community Solar Project Update**

We’re happy to report that we have reservations for 90% of the energy that our planned 700 kW solar array will produce. That great pre-subscription rate is important as we work to move this project forward. Our project has made progress through a number of hurdles.

In December, ComEd completed its required System Impact Study of our project and moved our project on to the next review step in the approval process.

Most recently, ComEd has completed their Facilities Study, which is a more detailed, in-the-field study of the impact and needs that our solar farm will place on the electrical grid to which our array will connect. However, the cost for that interconnection seems to be cost-prohibitive at this point, which was unexpected. We are still exploring and are also hopeful that more legislation will arise to benefit renewables, especially solar. In addition, we continue to work on our plans to make this a pollinator-friendly solar farm. See accompanying article for more on a fantastic workshop that was held at McHenry County College on that endeavor. While this project is not a certainty given the cost of interconnection and unknown direction of solar credit system in Illinois, we will continue to keep pre-subscribers and our entire membership informed of progress.
Defenders’ Volunteer Speakers Available

by Greg Alexander

Are you part of an organization (e.g., club, company, school, non-profit) that promotes learning opportunities? Would your group be open to hearing about how they can be a positive force for the environment?

The Education Committee of the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County has retained several volunteer speakers who are interested in helping your group learn! These volunteers have expertise on a number of topics: volunteer opportunities, land conservation and restoration, winter ecology, pollinators and backyard habitat, protecting groundwater from contamination, sustainability, regenerative agriculture, climate change, plastic pollution, recycling and waste reduction, transportation alternatives and bike friendly streets, and the Defenders’ mission & vision.

We have had some encouraging receptivity recently for a number of our speakers at various venues. We would like to do more. Please help us in matching speakers with opportunities. If you have ideas or interest in helping to arrange for a speaker, please contact Chris Bassi (chris.e.bassi@gmail.com) or Greg Alexander (gca@ameritech.net). Also let us know if you have interest in joining the list of volunteer speakers!

Summer Garage Sale!

Donation Drop-off Dates:
Sunday, July 7 – 2 PM to 5 PM, Monday, July 8 through Wednesday, July 10 – 10 AM to 3 PM

Sale Dates:
Thursday, July 11 through Saturday, July 13 – 9 AM to 4 PM

by Anne Basten

Did you miss our Spring Garage Sale? Time to start gathering up your donations for our Summer Sale! We are looking for lightly used household items and well-worn 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 would love to have them to raise these funds. 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 take the following items: clothing, stuffed animals, kitchen appliances that are not clean throughout, non-working small appliances, large appliances, TVs, computer monitors or computers.

Please be thoughtful when choosing your items for donation, and remember that if it does not sell, we may have to take it home with us for disposal. Volunteers for pricing and organizing donations, overseeing the sale dates, and clean up can sign up at https://signup.com.

Become an Environmental Ambassador

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
McHenry County College, Conference Room #B168-9

by Cynthia Kanner

To date, the Environmental Defenders has conducted four environmental advocacy workshops designed to help people learn how to connect with their municipalities, county government and state government on decisions and legislation that affect our environment. We encourage this level of awareness so that you, as a resident of McHenry County, can be an active participant in supporting the environment and encourage our local and state governments to put into place better management practices. Our trainings, conducted by Kim Hankins, Nancy Schietzelt and myself, involve a PowerPoint on filing witness slips through the 101st Illinois General Assembly. We also discuss how to stay apprised of meetings at the county level through the county’s meeting portal.

And, we encourage participants to review meeting agendas published by their own towns and to be on the lookout for anything related to or having possible effects on the environment and conservation. Further, we explain that, ultimately, we would like ears and eyes throughout our communities and ask that people attend their local meetings in order to help The Defenders stay aware of what’s going on in all corners of McHenry County, whether those “things” may have positive or negative impact on the environment. We will be conducting more workshops and starting group meetings of volunteers willing to become Environmental Ambassadors this summer.

If you’re interested in learning more or if you attended one of our workshops and would like to be kept informed about upcoming meetings, please email Cynthia at cwkannerenvirodefmc@gmail.com. With a small staff, we need your help to keep us apprised of what’s happening in your neck of the woods. And, together, we can spread our roots throughout the county and further our mission to “protect all living things.” Please explore this opportunity to become an Environmental Ambassador! Feel free to call with any questions – 815-338-0393.

RSVPs are appreciated one day in advance of workshops.

EARTHCONNECT SUMMER 2019
NEW! Green Screen Quarterly Environmental Documentary Film Series

Monday, July 22, Doors open at 6:30 PM; film begins at 7 PM
Leucht Conference Center, McHenry County College
8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake

by Kim Compton, Education Committee

Join the Education Committee of the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the McHenry County College Sustainability Center for the second film in a new quarterly environmental documentary film series called “Green Screen.” Thought-provoking, inspiring, and educational, these films will remind us all why we do what we do. Some will have a global focus, while others will feature issues connected more to the local scene.

A short discussion will follow each movie. Panelists will be invited to participate for some films. Our next film is entitled “The Guide: A Biologist in Gorongosa.” Produced by Academy Award winning filmmaker Jessica Yu, the film weaves together themes in conservation biology and environmental science, the value of scientific mentorship, and the social and economic realities of wilderness restoration. New board member and biologist, Dr. Bev Dow, will join us for discussion after the film. Save the date for the one following on October 28, 2019.

Annual Corn Roast and Pot-Luck Gathering
Saturday, August 17, 4 PM to 8PMish

by Alice and Bill Howenstine

We invite you to join us at Pioneer Tree Farm, 4614 Pioneer Road, located three miles north of McHenry, for the Environmental Defenders annual corn roast, clay-oven pizza, and potluck, which will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2019.

Enjoy hours of fun with the family and other Defender 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. If you can volunteer to be corn roasters, pizza makers or those willing to help with set-up/clean-up, please give us a call at 815-385-8512.

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! This is a fundraiser for The Defenders. Each volunteer that works at least a full day earns a free tree, and the Environmental Defenders receive a portion of the tree sales.

Questions? Please call Alice or Bill, 815-385-8512.

Paddle the Lower Fox River
Sunday, September 15, 10:00 AM

The Environmental Defenders and Friends of the Fox River (FOFR) will once again do a joint paddling trip on the Lower Fox from Sheridan to Wedron, IL. If you do not have your own boat, FOFR can supply canoes at a members-only rate of $10 to cover gas and tolls for hauling their boats. This trip is the classic Fox River canoe trip because of its scenic, if not wild, nature. This is the stretch where ancient Fox River floods cut through the same sandstone bedrock as seen at Starved Rock, forming 100-foot-high sheer rock bluffs that line the river on one side or the other. This is also the stretch that inspired a brief but unsuccessful attempt to pass a State Wild and Scenic River Act in Illinois. RSVP your interest to: envirodefmc@gmail.com, with “FOX PADDLE” in the subject line. An optional camping night before at Ayer’s Landing is possible. If interested, please let us know! RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 1 in order to organize boats.

12th Annual “It’s Our River Day” Celebration
Saturday, September 21, Noon to 4 PM
Towne Park, 100 Jefferson Street, Algonquin

by Cynthia Kanner

Join the community for this annual celebration of The Fox River! It’s a clean-up, both on land and in the water, thanks to the Village of Algonquin, Sierra Club, Fox River Jeep Club, Illinois Paddling Council, Illinois Water TrailKeepers and Prairie State Canoeists, plus all those who come out to clean up and celebrate on behalf of the Environmental Defenders!

This year, Karen Miller, executive planner with the Kane County Development Department, will speak about the Fabulous Fox and an effort to have the Fox River designated as a National Water Trail! The 233-mile trail would be a national asset, providing suitable access to the public to enjoy outdoor recreation, scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and the benefits of cultural and historical resources along the river. This natural resource is a catalyst for tour-
ism for the Fox River Corridor, leading to greater eco-
nomic prosperity. Our towns along the trail will greatly
benefit from this designation. Residents and visitors alike
would become more connected to the Fox River and all it
has to offer.

This year, the clean-up is part of an even wider effort by
Friends of the Fox River. There will be organized activi-
ties up and down the river on this statewide day of cele-
brating Illinois’ beautiful watersheds, plus a touch-the-
water, kick-off at NOON! This year, due to downtown
construction in Algonquin, our event will take place at
Towne Park along the beautiful Crystal Creek, a tributary
to the Fox River. The Algonquin Rotary Club’s Harvest
Market will also be at this location from 9AM to 4PM.
And, Coffee will be brewing, brought to you by Riverbot-
tom Ice Cream Company, a Defenders’ business member,
where we hope you’ll head after the clean-up for home-
made ice cream.

We’ll have much to celebrate all in one place in down-
town Algonquin!

Volunteer Appreciation Event
Sunday, September 29, 2PM to 4PM, Defenders’
Property on Dean Street (2222 S. Dean, Woodstock)

Join other volunteers from The Defenders for a celebration
of YOU! Randy Schietzelt, a birding enthusiast and re-
tired Biology professor from Harper College, will lead us
on a bird walk around The Defenders’ property, which is
adjacent to Conservation District and Soil & Water Con-
servation District properties and is located at the headwa-
ters of the Kishwaukee River. Enjoy late afternoon treats
as well, courtesy of The Environmental Defenders. Wear
appropriate clothing and shoes for outdoor walking
through our land. Whether you have volunteered for one
hour a week, month or the year, we celebrate all that our
volunteers do to help make our organization a success. We
wouldn’t be The Defenders without you! Please RSVP by
September 27 to envirodefmc@gmail.com so we can plan
for snacks.

Business Member Outing to
Riverbottom Ice Cream Co
Saturday, October 5, 10AM to Noon
301 S. Main Street, Algonquin

Come see what makes Riverbottom Ice Cream Co environ-
mentally friendly! Join Owners, Bob and Bobbie Novak,
from 10AM to Noon to learn about why this shop has a lot to
be proud of. Be prepared to purchase fantastic ice cream!
RSVPs by October 4 to envirodefmc@gmail.com appreci-
ated. Free public parking lot conveniently located nearby and
free charging stations for electric vehicles nearby, too.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
Rebecca Hegner, Harvard
Kristin Camorlinga, Woodstock
Susan Smith, Huntley
Brandie Dunn, Johnsburg
Howard Hoyt, Huntley
Judy and Rich Escallier, Huntley
Cathy Klink, Cary
Betsy Meyer, McHenry
Anita and Jeff Johnson,
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Victoria Quesea, Algonquin
Marcia Johnson, Woodstock
Tinkler Family, Woodstock
Green Read News

By Pam Johnson, Manager, The Green Read

Over the last few months, The Green Read has been expanding its connection with the community by offering a variety of special events, from classes to story times to author talks. With school out and summer upon us, we are adding even more events for all ages, and especially for children and families. We hope you will stop by to enjoy one of our special events!

Our Drop-in Kids’ Crafts have been a big hit with parents and children alike. In April the kids made eggshell seed-starters on Saturdays, and in May they traced their hands to make handprint Mother’s Day cards. New crafts will be featured throughout the summer.

On the third Thursday of each month, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, we offer a Drop-in Yarn & Craft night for adults. Bring in a knitting, crocheting, or other craft to work on while socializing with fellow enthusiasts!

Two of our volunteers, Janey Walters and Mary Erlenborn, have been reading books to children for Storytime. Storytime is scheduled: Friday, July 12 at 11 AM; Saturday, July 13 at 1 PM; Friday, July 26 at 11 AM; Friday, August 9 at 11 AM; and Saturday, August 10 at 1 PM. We are also bringing in Rock ‘n’ Kids for two special Rock ‘n’ Roll Storytimes on August 28, 10 AM to 10:45 AM. Rock ‘n’ Roll Storytime introduces preschoolers to new and classic books through music and movement. Space is limited; please email thegreen-readbookstore@gmail.com to register.

Volunteer Mary Perrin will be teaching another Zentangle class on Thursday, June 27, from 7 PM to 9 PM. Zentangle is a meditative method of drawing repetitive patterns, which result in a beautiful art creation. No artistic talent needed! Registration is required.

Our Green Readers Book Club, which meets from 7 PM to 9 PM, is off to a great start! On May 2, after discussing The Jane Austen Book Club, we picked the books we will be reading for the rest of the year. The selections for the next few months are: Beartown by Frederik Bachman on June 18; Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall on July 11; Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult on August 1; and The True and Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters by Elisabeth Robinson on September 5. We have a great group of readers, and anyone is welcome to join us at any time!

Family game days are planned for several Mondays and Saturdays this summer: Monday, July 8 (2 PM to 5 PM); Monday, August 18 (2 PM to 5 PM); and Saturday, August 24 (1 PM to 5 PM). Another exciting addition to our events this summer will be magic shows! As of this writing, the dates for the magic shows are still being finalized but will be announced once the schedule is set.

Education & Advocacy

The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during the Spring of 2019 in addition to other activities that are covered in more detail in this issue:

- Continued to facilitate monthly Green Drinks events.
- Distributed environmental education materials at the Illinois Extension Master Gardeners’ Gardenfest at MCC.
- Continued our participation with the McHenry County Solid Waste Task Force.
- Activated our members to file witness slips related to environmental protection legislation in the State Legislature.
- Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Convened a meeting in McHenry of individuals interested in implementing watershed protection projects within the Dutch and Boone Creek Watersheds.
- 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 Creek Watershed.
- Continued to offer groups speakers through the Environmental Defenders’ Speakers’ Bureau.
- Monitored weekly phone calls with the Illinois Environmental Council in order to stay current about legislative issues that may affect McHenry County.
- Continued working with the Bioneers committee, facilitated by the MCC Sustainability Center to plan for the 2019 Green Living Expo.

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Held two more advocacy workshops to encourage our members as well as other McHenry County residents to advocate on behalf of environmental protection at all levels of government.

Attended meetings of the McHenry County Planning Department to update the Water Resources Action Plan.

Removed trash from Triangle Prairie and conducted clean-up at O’Brien Prairie.

Took part in Boone Creek Cleanup with MCCD and the Fox Waterway Agency.

Provided information about the restoration project at Sterne’s Fen at a Crystal Lake Park District Open House.

Participated in the regular meetings of Hispanic Connections in Woodstock.

Participated in the regular meetings of the group “Eat for Good.”

Co-sponsored annual Earth Day celebration.

Gave presentations to Medcor Company in McHenry; Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock; Girl Scout Troop 2332 in McHenry.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make these efforts possible!

**Reflections**

**Planting Natives on Solar Farms Workshop**

*by Nancy Schietzelt*

The Defenders’ Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee brought together solar farm developers with native landscaping companies and other interested citizens at a half-day workshop on April 4th at MCC with the Sustainability Center co-hosting. The photo shows Colleen Hollinger, from Prairie Restoration, Inc. in Minnesota, presenting the keynote speech for the event. Additional speakers at this Planting Natives on Solar Farms Workshop were representatives from Hey and Associates, The Pizzo Group, Applied Ecological Services, and The Conservation Foundation. They covered topics ranging from seed selection, to site preparation, to prairie management under solar farms to a crowd of about 100 people. The speakers’ presentations can be viewed at [http://mcdef.org/native-plants-on-solar-farms-workshop-recording](http://mcdef.org/native-plants-on-solar-farms-workshop-recording).

**Eat For Good Gave Me Real Hope**

*By Ash Plaza*

As a young member from the Environmental Defenders, I take pleasure and pride applying myself to knowledge of how to defend our planet in small and large ways and spreading my love for the Earth to people around me. I attended the potluck supper at the Eat For Good Meeting at Soulful Prairies on April 17. Don Wilkin and Nathan Aaberg, from the new and upcoming Eat for Good organization, had my undivided attention in an evening filled with local farmers, wholesome, organic food from the farms, and talk of agriculture hosted by Linda Bruce at Soulful Prairies, a Defenders’ business member.

School was in session and my attention was on all the new information about our local farms and how important agriculture truly is. Eat For Good represents supporting our local farmers and buying food that is nurtured from seeding to selling to the community. The mission is to help people change at least one habit of buying from grocery stores or purchasing heavily packaged or processed goods. For example, for a whole year you can pledge to buy your meat or milk from the farm nearest to you instead of the grocery store. I want to thank the Eat for Good organization for inspiring me to go to my local farm, All Grass Farms, off Route 31 in Dundee Township. I bought REAL unprocessed, healthy ribs and felt so good about knowing where my meat came from. Not to mention the hard workers of the farm were incredibly inviting and told my family and I to walk the farm to see the living conditions of the animals. All the animals had healthy living conditions which made my decision to buy meat from them that much easier.

I can see a bright future for generations to come with organizations like Environmental Defenders, joining with other conservation groups and local farms through Eat For Good to collaborate and ensure that our future generations will be provided with all the essentials to eat from and take care of our local grounds. Our children deserve better than chemicals on vegetables and processed meat from factories. I pledge to buy my meat from my local farm for one whole year thanks to Eat For Good. Together, we can change the world, one purchase choice and one pledge at a time.
O’Brien Road Prairie Cleanup

*by Nancy Schietzelt*

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County have taken care of the roadside prairie at the intersection of O’Brien Road and Hwy. 47 for many years. Volunteers have removed invasive species and planted several hundred native prairie plants at the site. On May 5th a group gathered to conduct a Spring cleanup at the prairie. Those helping were Austin Tipper, Phil Zack, Tom Von Geldern, Matt Rogers, Brady Rogers, Randy Schietzelt, Cindy Skrukrud, Ashley Moore, Kade MacDonald, and Kelly MacDonald. Not shown in the picture was Nancy Schietzelt.

Planting Milkweeds at O’Brien Prairie

Jeff Schumacher and Austin Tipper were two of our volunteers who planted 150 milkweed plants at O’Brien Prairie in May. The Defenders were fortunate to receive plants valued at $400 from Monarch Watch to help increase plant diversity at this site and to provide additional habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. The species included common milkweed, butterfly weed, and whorled milkweed. The Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee will water them to help them get established. Since these plants were plugs, they may not bloom much this year, but keep an eye out in future years for a beautiful milkweed display in this roadside prairie at the intersection of Hwy 47 and O’Brien Road just south of Hebron.

Environmental Scholarship Awarded

The Environmental Defenders’ Education Committee scholarship review team reviewed six applications for our annual environmental scholarship. This award is given to a deserving senior (or seniors) who has shown a commitment to protecting or conserving our earth through volunteer work with environmental or conservation organizations and who plans their college studies to include a field related to the environment or conservation.

Our winner this year is a young man from Crystal Lake Central High School named Ian Shuman. Ian plans to study biology at the University of Notre Dame and has volunteered with The Defenders at restoration workdays and at Pioneer Tree Farm during Christmas Tree sales. Ian is receiving a $1,000 scholarship and was awarded the check by Cynthia Kanner at his school’s awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 15. The Education Committee thanks Bill Kreznor, Chris Bassi, Linda Bachar and Mary Forni for making up the scholarship review team.
Thank You Volunteers!
by Nancy Schietzelt
The Fundraising Committee sends a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make the Spring Garage Sale a success. Also, thanks so much to all members who donated items for the sale. In addition to the sale at the Algonquin Township Road District garage, many of the nicest items will be placed to sell at our Green Spot Used Book Store and at Best Friend’s Consignment in Algonquin. So please check out those two locations for some great buys.

Two Recycling Drives Left in 2019!
September 7, 2019 - 8:00 AM to Noon
Grafton Township
10109 Vine Street, Huntley, IL
October 19, 2019 – 8:00 AM to Noon
McHenry County College
8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, IL

Styrofoam Collection Sites:
Village of Algonquin
110 Meyer Drive
Algonquin Public Works
Open 24-7
Algonquin Township
Highway Department
3702 US HWY 14
Open 6:30 AM to 3 PM
Mon. - Fri.
City of Woodstock
Public Works
326 Washington Street, Woodstock
7:30 AM to 3 PM

Check our website periodically for information about future drive locations.
www.mcdef.org/recycling

MEMBERSHIP FORM
please circle level:
Supporting ($250) Patron ($100) Family/Basic ($50)
Young Professional ($30) Student ($15) Senior ($30)
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.

Acceptable Items:
Fluorescent tubes, CFL bulbs, Clean
Styrofoam of all colors, packing peanuts and reusable bubble wrap.

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.
Calendar of Events

**JULY**

**EACH WEEK | TUES: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM & SAT: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
Wingate Prairie Restoration Workday, Crystal Lake

**THURS 11-SAT 13 | Summer Garage Sale**
Algonquin Township Highway Department

**SAT 13 | Nippersink Canoe Trip. Keystone Landing at 9AM RSVP to danwil126@aol.com and for more information. Leader – Dan Wilson**

**TUES 16 | Become an Environmental Ambassador**
MCC, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

**MON 22 | Green Screen Quarterly Film Series – “THE GUIDE.”**
McHenry County College, 7 PM, doors open 6:30 p.m.

**SUN 28 | Sterne’s Woods Park Restoration Day**
5617 Hillside Rd., Crystal Lake
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

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**AUGUST**

**EACH WEEK | TUES: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM & SAT: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
Wingate Prairie Restoration Workday, Crystal Lake

**WED 7 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen**
Crystal Lake, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**SAT 17 | Annual Corn Roast**
Pioneer Tree Farm, McHenry, 4:00 PM

**SUN 25 | Sterne’s Woods Park Restoration Day**
5617 Hillside Rd., Crystal Lake
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

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**SEPTEMBER**

**EACH WEEK | TUES: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM & SAT: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
Wingate Prairie Restoration Workday, Crystal Lake

**WED 4 | Green Drinks at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen**
Crystal Lake, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**SAT 7 | Grafton Township Recycling Drive**
Huntley, 8:00 AM to Noon

**SUN 15 | Paddle the Lower Fox**
Ayer’s Landing, 10:00 AM

**SAT 21 | It’s Our River Day**
Algonquin, Noon to 4:00 PM

**SUN 22 | Sterne’s Woods Park Restoration Day**
5617 Hillside Rd., Crystal Lake
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

**SUN 29 | Volunteer Appreciation Event**
Woodstock, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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**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.