A Fractured, Hyper-partisan Springfield Just Agreed: Illinois Will Become a National Leader on Climate Action and Clean Energy

By Matt Steffen, Communications Director, Illinois Environmental Council

As Governor Rauner entered the gym of Clinton High School in Clinton, IL, he was accompanied by cheering townsfolk, fire trucks and even a marching band. It’s rare that bill signings reach such joyous heights, but the people of Clinton had reason to be excited. By signing the Future Energy Jobs Bill, the Governor would be rescuing the town’s biggest job and property tax provider: the Clinton nuclear power plan, which is owned by the enormously profitable Exelon Corporation. But this is only a fraction of the full story. The facts are that 70% of the resources allocated by the Future Energy Jobs Bill will go towards supporting true forms of clean energy; like wind, solar and energy efficiency.

But first some background.

In 2013 the Clean Jobs Coalition, which consists of environmental, consumer, faith and community organizations, as well as a robust contingency of businesses, came together to craft a plan for Illinois to take advantage of the federal Clean Power Plan, which tasked each state with developing a plan to reduce carbon emissions.

The Coalition’s diverse set of stakeholders decided that the best way for Illinois to tackle our goal of 33% reduction would be to fix Illinois’ Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). It requires the state to get 25% of its energy from renewables by 2025, reduce overall energy usage by 20% by 2030 through energy efficiency, and create a carbon market. Since that time, circumstances have changed significantly but the Coalition has remained committed to those aims.

However, the introduction of the Clean Power Plan was not the only impetus for energy legislation in Illinois. Exelon Corporation owns and operates all six nuclear power plants in Illinois (the most in the country). Two of these plants, one in Clinton and one in Quad Cities, struggled to compete in wholesale electricity markets in...
About EarthConnect

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Basic memberships start at $50.

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Cover/back photos by Cynthia Kanner.

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800-382-6844
customerservice@adbag.com
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Advanced Eyecare Clinic
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5 West Acorn Lane, LITH
847-854-0202

Algonquin/LITH Chamber of Commerce
2114 W. Algonquin R., LITH
847-658-5300
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Alpine Accessories
www.alpineaccessories.com
9219 South Rt 31, Lake in the Hills
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Artland Story Group
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The Backdrop
106 Cass St, Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-3007

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,
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info@computerrecyclingcenter.net

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

Dave’s Bait & Tackle
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815-455-2040
4419 Route 176, Crystal Lake

Falcon Green Resources
815-334-8689 or Toll Free: 877-667-4488
2 Kennedy Dr., Harvard
caption@falconwasterecycling.com

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

Handmade On Main
http://handmadeonmain.com/
320 South Main St. Algonquin
847-458-1976

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, IL 60098
815-334-4213

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

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www.pioneretreefarm.com
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USAgain
www.usagain.com
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http://wheelwerksbikes.com
115 N. Main St., Crystal Lake
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Windridge Memorial Park
7014 S Rawson Bridge Rd., Cary

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www.woodstockchamber.com
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AND WHEELWERKS BIKE SHOP
recent years, causing Exelon to announce that if these plants did not receive help, they would be decommissioned. With their considerable political power in Springfield, Exelon’s push for energy legislation made it almost certain that the issue would be taken up, leaving it up to the Clean Jobs Coalition to ensure that any new energy policy would prioritize renewable energy, energy efficiency and distribute the ensuing benefits in a just way.

After being directed by legislative leaders to reach a compromise, the Clean Jobs Coalition, Exelon, and ComEd entered negotiations, and nearly two years later the Future Energy Jobs bill was born. Which brings us back to the Clinton High School gym.

“This is the most significant piece of climate and clean energy policy in Illinois’ history,” said Jen Walling, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council, who spoke before the Governor in Clinton. Despite it not receiving the bulk of the media coverage, roughly 70% of the Future Energy Jobs Bill is committed to achieving the aims of the Clean Jobs Coalition, namely renewable energy and energy efficiency development. By fixing the renewable portfolio standard, the law is expected to spur 3,000 megawatts of new solar projects and 1,300 megawatts of new wind projects in Illinois, enough to power nearly 1 million homes. Additionally, ComEd will be required to cut its northern Illinois customers’ energy demand by 21.5% by 2030, while Ameren will have to reduce demand among its downstate customers by 16% by the same deadline. There are financial incentives built in if the companies exceed their annual reduction targets and penalties if they miss them.

The bill also includes programs that make it possible for people who have not been able to install their own rooftop solar panels (multi-unit buildings, low and medium-income earners, etc.) to subscribe to community solar projects in their neighborhoods. Another provision, the Solar-for-All Program, encourages solar development in low-income neighborhoods and provides job training. These essential inclusions in the bill were the result of tireless organizing, advocacy and negotiating by environmental justice groups within the Clean Jobs Coalition.

While the inclusion of a “bailout” for Exelon’s nuclear plants is not ideal—there is not a satisfactory way to deal with their waste and uranium mining is highly problematic—overall, the Future Energy Jobs bill includes nation-leading, and standard-setting goals. Setting such a high standard is vital at a time when the incoming federal government is likely to be hostile towards renewable energy, and intense partisanship prevents the two parties from working together to keep even the most essential services of government functioning.

Passage of the Future Energy Jobs Bill is a victory for people in every community across Illinois who deserve more jobs, lower electric bills and healthier air to breathe. It is a victory for businesses in Illinois in the clean energy sector and across the economy—and a signal to companies across the nation that Illinois is fertile ground for growth in this field.

Illinois just passed the most important climate bill in the state’s history, and the only legislation happening anywhere in the country right now. The Future Energy Jobs bill will create thousands of jobs in every part of Illinois, save consumers money on their bills and make our air cleaner to breathe. That is the real story and reason for a parade.

Now we just need a budget.

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**Close the Gap:** The path to completion of the Crystal Lake to Woodstock Multi Use Trail is finally clear.

*By Eberhard Veit*

As you may have read in the spring 2016 Earth Connect Newsletter, the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) and other agencies in the County have been working on the Trail from Crystal Lake to Woodstock for over 20 years. Finally this work is coming to fruition and the trail will be completed in 2017.

After construction of the first section of the trail in 2009 from McHenry County College to 1,000 feet short of Oak Street, the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (MCBA) realized that while that was a great start, a trail is only as good as its connectivity. The fact that people immediately created a dirt trail to the paved section of the trail attests to that fact and even Google Maps shows this trail as a dirt trail in its bicycling map feature.  

*Continued page 4*
MCBA started working right away with MCCD to tie that first section into Oak Street, but the Railroad would not allow crossing the tracks, and MCCD could not bring the paved trail to Oak street due to legal issues and safety concerns with sightlines.

The trail users found this impractical and in addition to the dirt trail, made a track crossing further down, basically creating “usable connections at their own risk.”

Subsequently, MCCD built the trail from Oak Street to Veterans Acres. When the trail from MCC to Woodstock was becoming a reality with the expansion of Route 14 by IDOT, it became apparent that it is crucial to complete the trail all the way. It turned out there was a short section missing from West Lake Shore Drive to Lake Avenue in Woodstock where the city already had a trail.

In 2014 MCBA talked to all possible agencies, politicians and representatives. All agreed that it was really silly not having made the connection for various reasons. Nevertheless they all stated that their entity could not make it happen. However, as everybody agreed that not making this connection was a really bad idea, the agencies came together through the catalysts of the MCBA and everybody from IDOT, McHenry County DOT, the City of Woodstock and MCCD worked out a way to make it happen and the trail was built in fall of 2016. What a wonderful success and what a wonderful collaboration to build connected trails and routes for non-motorized transportation and recreation.

Now the last obstacle to overcome was the Oak Street railroad crossing. Drawings were made in 2009 and MCCD as well as the City of Crystal Lake wanted to get it done. The MCBA started leaning on the railroad again in 2013 and MCCD and the City of Crystal Lake contacted them again. Finally, Elizabeth Kessler and John Kremer from MCCD did not let them off the hook and for some magic reason and because of our relentless pursuit of the subject they agreed to a crossing.

MCCD has secured a grant for 80% of the construction cost and is working on commitments for the 20% local match. We are very confident that this can be pulled off and that construction will begin in summer 2017. One critical component of the final move is the support by the trail users. Put your money where your heart is! Show your support of the project and donate towards the local 20% match to close the gap. This will help to finance the local match and will help to raise the remaining money from agencies and communities. Please make a donation, no matter how large or small. It is better if 1000 people give $10. vs. one person donating $10,000. If you can spare only $5.- do that and if you can spare $100.- or more do that. Follow your heart!!

With your help we can pull off this final step and get this great asset to McHenry County completed for all trail users.

Please also spread the news with your friends and neighbors. Article submitted by Eberhard Veit of Crystal Lake. Eberhard has been a resident of McHenry County since 1992, is a year round transportation cyclist and the president of the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (http://mcbicycleadvocates.org). For a file to share go to http://mcbicycleadvocates.org/1-Main/OakStreetDonations.pdf.

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**Need to get Outside?**

**Come Volunteer with Us!**

Defenders’ members have been working with Steward Brice Alt to rescue oaks in Sterne’s Fen and Woods in Crystal Lake each month by cutting out invasive species. More volunteers would be welcome on the 4th Sunday of each month from 9–11AM. Meet at the shelter at Sterne’s Fen on Hillside Road. Similar workdays are held at Wingate Prairie in Crystal Lake every Tuesday from 2 – 4 p.m. Steward Jim Wigman, our Defenders’ Treasurer, invites volunteers to meet him at the Nature Center just off Hwy. 176 on Main Street. Both of these projects help to protect water quality and improve habitat in the Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed!
Advocacy & Education

McHenry County’s Water Resources Specialist Position Approved!

By Nancy Schietzelt

The Defenders are so thankful that the County Board voted this fall to create and fund a Water Resources Specialist position that will be filled during this winter. This happened as the result of a successful advocacy effort led by The Defenders’ Water and Natural Resources Protection Committee in collaboration with all the watershed groups in the county, McHenry County Farm Bureau, and the McHenry and Lake Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Water Resources Specialist will facilitate the regional management of the county’s water supply by coordinating efforts to protect ground and surface water quality and quantity. This work will be accomplished through educational programming, development of a comprehensive water conservation program, facilitating implementation of the McHenry County Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) by the county, municipalities, other governmental agencies, and the private sector, as well as other related duties. We are especially pleased that this employee will work with all the watershed groups in the county to obtain grants and complete projects to protect our water resources in a more coordinated and efficient manner. We extend a big “Thank You” to the McHenry County Planning and Development Department and the County Board!

Fall Education and Advocacy Efforts

By Nancy Schietzelt

The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during the fall of 2016 in addition to other activities that are covered in more detail in this issue. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make these activities happen!

- Participated in first meeting of Steering Committee for Fox River Corridor Plan led by CMAP.
- Continued to facilitate monthly Green Drinks events.
- Assisted with the Fall Youth Groundwater Festival conducted by MCSEEP.
- Continued our participation with the McHenry County Health Department’s Solid Waste Task Force.
- Presented a program about the Environmental Defenders to the Women’s Group of the Zion Lutheran Church in McHenry.
- Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Hosted the Fall meeting of the McHenry County Watershed Roundtable to plan coordination of activities for 2017.
- Presented a program about natural area restoration for the Crystal Lake Park District.
- 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.
- Co-sponsored and tabled at Citizen Climate Lobby’s showing of an episode of A Year of Living Dangerously.
- Continued collaboration with the IDNR Right-of-Ways Sector of the Monarch Butterfly Summit in planning for habitat improvement for monarchs and other pollinators.
- Worked with the Bioneers Committee to plan environmental speakers series at MCC in February.
- Continued to promote BYOBag throughout the county.

New Defenders’ products at THE GREEN SPOT!

We have brand new merchandise, such as caps, blankets and even license plate frames, all with The Environmental Defenders’ name and logo, available at The Green Spot. As you go about your day, help spread the word through what you wear (and drive) that The Environmental Defenders is busy working to protect our environment here in McHenry County! Come visit us at the Green Spot or shop on-line through www.hyperstitch.com/category/clubs/environmental-defenders-of-mchenry-county. Stop by the office to say, “hi” while you’re shopping.

Woodstock Square Mall
110 S. Johnson Street
Annual Award Nominations Needed!

**Theta Award** – given to an organization or individual who demonstrates a commitment to the environment through programs and actions that result in conservation, protection, and preservation of natural resources.

**Government/Organization Award** – for the McHenry County governmental group or organization that has made a significant contribution to environmental protection in the County during the past year.

**Volunteer Award** – for the Defenders’ member who has contributed the most to the good of the organization through his/her volunteer efforts during the past year.

**Young Environmental Defender of the Year Award** – for a Defenders’ member under 20 who has contributed most to environmental protection in the County in the past year.

*Please email nominations to: envirodefmc@gmail.com by January 31st.*

Thank you!

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**About Will Kruger**

Will Kruger is a guitarist, singer/songwriter and entertainer who brings a unique sense of clarity and a strong emphasis to the lyrical content of his selection of songs. His musical roots go back to the folk era where influence from the likes of Peter Paul & Mary, Simon & Garfunkel, Gordon Lightfoot, John Denver and James Taylor have shaped his musical style.
January 24—Homeward Bound

Tues., Jan. 24, 7 PM
McHenry County College
8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake
Luecht Conference Center
Free & Open to the Public

Meet Betty Trummel, retired District #47 educator, who will have just returned from Antarctica four weeks before this presentation. On December 2, Betty and 75 other women in science from around the world set sail on a three-week science and leadership expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. The expedition is called Homeward Bound, and is taking place on board a ship named Ushuaia, named after its home port in Argentina. Upon her return, Betty will provide us the exciting details about the challenges and rewards of participating in science research and expeditions in the Earth’s southernmost continent and ocean. She will talk about the role of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in working in this remote, harsh and unique environment and will also discuss how the Earth’s polar regions are important areas where scientists study climate change and how the ecosystems on both land and water are impacted by a warming Earth. In addition, Betty will share a bit about her research and student trip to Arctic Svalbard this past summer. She will have traveled from 79 degrees north to 65 degrees south in a matter of months!

February 19—Think ‘n Drink

Dust off your thinking caps and polish your beer mugs! Defenders’ members are invited to Crystal Lake Brewing on Sunday, February 19th at 2 to 5 PM for an afternoon of craft beer and a trivia contest!

We will start off the event with a short tour of the brewery given by the manager, Beth. (Hint: you might want to pay close attention to the information given on the tour…) We will then meet in the party room for a fun game of trivia, with a different topic featured each round, including a “green” category, of course! Prizes will be awarded to the winning team in each round, with a grand prize for the winner of the whole event! Come with friends as a team, or come individually and form a team with other Defenders’ members that afternoon.

Pop, lemon & cucumber water and, of course, beer are available. No food is served by CLB, but we are welcome to bring in our own snacks and food. (Please no outside beverages.)

Seating is limited; please RSVP to Cynthia Kanner at 815-338-0393 to reserve your spot or email us at envirodefmc@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

February—Bioneers Speaker Series

2/7/17—
Resiliency, Climate Change, and Communities on the Edge,
Dale Sands

Healthy societies depend on physical and social infrastructure to advance economic opportunity, protect our environment and improve people’s lives. Mr. Sands will provide an in depth look at the concept of resiliency and how effective planning will help communities prepare for impending climate related issues

2/21/17—
Engaging Citizens in Civic Ecology Practices,
Tania M. Schusler, Ph.D.

Throughout her career Dr. Schusler has worked at the interface of people and the environment. As Advanced Lecturer in Loyola’s Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Dr. Schusler teaches courses in Environmental Justice, Human Dimensions of Conservation, Food Systems, and Water. Her research focuses on citizen participation and stakeholder engagement in sustainable community development.

2/28/17—
Earth Connections: Building the Social Justice Narrative on our Environmental Crises, Shalini Gupta

Ms. Gupta’s work is focused on forging solutions to our environmental crises that are grounded in economic and social justice. She has worked with a range of organizations from local grassroots groups to international organizations engaging in the promotion of sound environmental policy and environmental justice and sustainable policies at the community level and across the country.

The speaker series is free and open to the public. No registration required. All sessions are at 7PM in McHenry County College Luecht Conference Center, Building B, on the main campus, 8900 Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. Sponsored by MCC’s Sustainability Center. www.McHenry.edu/bioneers or www.bioneers.org.
**Make a Difference Day**

Volunteers Randy Schietzelt, Tom and Graham Ellinghausen, Joe and Peg Dalieden, and Annette Sather worked cutting out invasives at O’Brien Prairie during the national “Make a Difference Day” this Fall. Since eight additional Defenders’ members joined them in their efforts, all of the invasive woody species at the site on the corner of Hwy. 47 and O’Brien Road were removed. This will allow more prairie plants to expand their range at the site. The Environmental Defenders re-adopted this roadside prairie in 2016 and planted about 250 host plants for pollinators at this site, as well as at three additional sites, in the spring as part of a Midwest regional effort to improve habitat for monarchs. We are proud to be part of this important effort and are thankful for all the invaluable time our volunteers dedicated to this project. Thank you!

**Winter at Pioneer Tree Farm**

By Cynthia Kanner

When my two boys were little, our family made it up to Pioneer Tree Farm once to get our tree the old fashioned way. I remember it was special. But, that was awhile ago, and with busy weekend schedules, we’d end up just running around the corner to a church or Lion’s Club sale last minute to grab a tree. I’ve wanted to return to Pioneer for a long time, so finally this year, I myself just volunteered for half a day. The moment I arrived, I felt exhilarated. The trees, the buildings, the snow, the people...it’s a magical place.

Alice and Bill Howenstine, whose farm and home it is, their son Chuck and his son, and many, many volunteers, create a sense of down-to-earth, wholesome holiday fun filled with fresh air, beautiful scenery, candle making, and a warming house with hot chocolate and gifts to purchase. An old woodburning stove warms the house and there’s always a fire going outside if you just can’t stand being indoors. And, what’s so gracious and wonderful, is that some of the proceeds made are contributed to The Environmental Defenders because of members who volunteer their time to work at the farm, helping customers cut and bale trees, sell crafts and serve refreshments. Thank you to Alice and Bill, and to all The Defenders’ volunteers who make this a wonderful holiday tradition. I’m doing a full day next year!

**Green Living Expo & Nov. Recycling Drive**

On November 5, The Environmental Defenders once again participated in the annual Green Living Expo at McHenry County College and organized by the College’s Sustainability Center. Our Waste Reduction committee decided to also hold our monthly recycling drive that morning to coincide with this special event. The weather was great, cars steadily drove through with hard-to-discard items, such as TVs and Styrofoam, and throughout the day, between the drive and the expo, The Defenders gained several new members. Mark your calendars, same weekend, for 2017!
The Year of Living Dangerously Watch Party

On December 8, an audience of about 50 people watched the National Geographic’s award-winning climate change series, *Years of Living Dangerously*, at McHenry County College. The series portrays the effects of climate change across the planet and, even more importantly, focuses on solutions that individuals, communities, companies and governments can use to address climate change. The series has returned for a second season to tell what is likely the biggest story of our time. In the December 7 episode, Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) volunteers were recognized for the work they are doing to reduce carbon emissions. Local environmental groups joined together with the McHenry County Chapter of CCL and hosted a screening of the episode and celebrated progress that has been made.

The Environmental Defenders has partnered with the McHenry County CCL chapter since assisting with its launch in December 2014.

*The evening was sponsored by Citizens’ Climate Lobby, McHenry County College Sustainability Center, Environmental Defenders and the McHenry County League of Women Voters.*

Fall Book Sale, Member Open House, and More

The Fall hallway book sale was a big success again this year and served to bring new people through our offices. Thank you to all the volunteers, shown here at a recent meeting, who make The Green Spot run so smoothly.

The Members Open House this year saw over 30 people of all ages pass through The Defenders’ office on November 25. They enjoyed the book sale, home-baked treats, goat cheese, hot drinks and annual lighting of the Woodstock Square. In addition, The Defenders’ Christmas Tree welcomed visitors at the Woodstock Opera House this year in a choice location right in the front hallway near ticket sales. Thank you to membership committee member, Adele Petersen, for doing a beautiful job planning the decorations!
A Place for Books, and Kids

By Cynthia Kanner

Carl Carder (below), and his nephew Reuben, heard about The Defenders’ big book sale this summer (and subsequently the Fall hallway sale at the office) and offered a home for the hundreds and hundreds of books that were not sold at those events. And then, a curious partnership blossomed—an environmental group in IL and a future library for kids in Mill Creek, IN. The site of the library, which will be part of a new community center, is an old school (1946-1985), called Lincoln, which had been abandoned for some years and had fallen into disrepair, until Carl Carder entered the picture and bought it. A retired dairy farmer and Phillips Drill factory employee, Carl has a dream to reopen the building as an after school destination, so kids have something healthy to do in a depressed area of town. Carl’s hope is for the library to open in the spring and when complete will also house a gym for basketball. Outside the building, Carl envisions a playground for kids from homes neighboring the site. But first, a new roof was needed and the flooring needed replacing as well. Because the building had been virtually abandoned by a previous owner who purchased it from the county, there was “junk” everywhere and the work to pull the Lincoln together turned into a seven-day-a-week job for this seemingly tireless 73-year-old. His goal? To house upward of 20,000 books and create a magical and safe place for kids. To say Carl is a hard worker seems an understatement and retired seems a misnomer. Not only does he work full time on his dream, he takes care of seven acres of his own land as well. And, oh yes, did I mention he runs a Medieval torture display museum in LaPorte, IN? The museum is an expression of his artistic individualism and he has also meticulously restored amusement park rides on the grounds, all for a cover of $5. As a Chicago Magazine article from 2011 reported, “...we’ve got a mild-mannered, possibly misunderstood genius and undeniable craftsman with a penchant for provocation.”

Anyway, we’ll keep the books comin’ and will look forward to a ribbon cutting ceremony, fingers crossed, in 2017. 🍃

Recycling News

UPCOMING recycling drive locations:

NO DRIVES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

MARCH DRIVE: SATURDAY, MARCH 11 9AM to NOON McHenry

Recycling Drives

What
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.

Requested donations
.50 cents per pound
TVs & computer monitors (max of $40); batteries; and fluorescent tubes from .50 cents to $1

When
Second Saturday
9 AM to NOON

Where
Check our Web site: www.mcdef.org for updates as we roam the county!

Please let us know if you can volunteer at one or more of our drives by calling 815-338-0393.
**Environmental Defenders of McHenry County**

Mission Statement

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. As a citizen organization, we are committed to building sound ecological relationships between people and the natural world that supports all life.

To achieve the aim of environmental preservation and improvement, we provide the community with educational programs and volunteer action on pollution prevention, sustainable land use, waste reduction, and energy and natural resource conservation.

We advocate policies that protect drinking water supplies and conserve land for open space and agriculture. We demonstrate waste reduction through recycling drives and reuse centers. We encourage natural resource protection through native landscaping and stream protection programs.

Inquire if your work place has an EarthShare giving program! Call us at 815-338-0393 for more information.

![EarthShare Illinois](image)

**Membership Form**

Membership also makes a great gift!

Below, please choose a level that works for you.

- Supporting – $250
- Patron – $100
- Family/Basic – $50
- Young Professional – $30
- Student – $10
- Senior – $25
- Other amount

Total contribution: $___________

☐ Yes, my check is enclosed.

Name/s

Address

City State Zip

Township

E-mail

Phone

Number of individuals residing in household:

This is a gift from:

Please return completed form to:

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106

Woodstock, IL 60098 OR

Join on-line at [www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org)

Questions? Call 815-338-0393 or email us at envirodefmc@gmail.com.

**The Green Spot**

Gently Used Books & Freesale Store

**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.
# Events & Activities

## JANUARY
- **Tuesday, January 24**
- **Homeward Bound Antarctica**—Lecture from returning expedition participant. *Details page 7.*

## FEBRUARY
- **Wednesday, February 1**
- **“Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception**—Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM
- **Think ’n Drink** at Crystal Lake Brewing. 2 to 5 PM, Trivia game, tour of brewery. *Details page 7.*
- **Sunday, February 19**

## MARCH
- **Wednesday, March 1**
- **“Green Wednesdays” Talk & Reception**—Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM
- **Saturday, March 11**
- **March Recycling Drive,** *Details page 10.*
- **Sunday, March 12**

**SAVE THE DATE, SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

FROM 11 TO 4, PRAIRIEVIEW EDUCATION CENTER, CRYSTAL LAKE.

All the usual events are planned (nature hike, puppet shows, exhibitors, games, crafts, music, food, and recycling drive), plus musical guest **Anna Stange**, with family-friendly interactive performances at 11:30 and 2:00!