

VOL. 17 ISSUE 3 · SUMMER 2022

EARTHCONNECT



Quarterly Newsletter of the Environmental Defenders
of McHenry County

DEFENDERS' COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CYNTHIA KANNER

As Defenders' members, you all know by now through an eNews announcement and a hard copy letter sent to your homes, the Environmental Defenders' Community Solar Farm to be built on our Dean Street property is moving forward! Just to recap, this news is due to the hard work of GRNE Solar, our project lead, our Solar Committee's commitment to the project, which began several years ago, and of course, to the recent passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) without which our project and so many others would not be possible. The Defenders' Community Solar Farm project's application was submitted through a program called Illinois Solar for All. Illinois Solar for All provides greater access to the clean energy economy for low-income communities and results in measurable savings for participants. As a non-profit organization that applied through Solar for All, we serve as a unique example of how these projects can be achieved and what their reach can be. Electing not to compete with very large projects through the Adjustable Block Program, and in alignment with our Strategic Plan, which includes reaching out to underrepresented communities, we decided to move our project through the Solar for All system. Now, the dream to bring our project to life has become a reality. And, yes, Defenders' members can be subscribers, so as the letter mailed not too long ago states, simply email me at defendersdirector@gmail.com to express your interest. When the time comes for subscribing, I'll be in touch! In the meantime, if you have any questions at all, just let me know. (Cont.)



Left to right: Cindy Skrukrud, Mike Erickson from Onsite Utility Services Capital, Cynthia Kanner, Nancy Schietzelt, Scott Kuykendall, Eric Gronwick and Jeremy Hoerauf from GRNE Solar standing in front of the site where the solar array will be built on the Defenders' Woodstock property on Dean St.

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UPDATE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT.

We will keep our members apprised of continued progress and stages of development. This special project very well could be the only one of its kind in the state – a solar farm operated through a non-profit. But, this project will also be an educational landing place for schools and the community in general. With an interpretive trail educating groups and passersby not only about the importance of collecting the sun's energy in order to move away from dirty energy like fossil fuels, but a site that demonstrates the vital need to plant native plants for pollinators, which will be introduced amidst the array. That practice leads to two outcomes: food for pollinators, whose land has been diminishing state-wide, and the infiltration of rainwater to the ground water aquifers so vital to our future water supply in McHenry County. In addition, the clean energy industry is booming thanks to the legislation passed, and with that, the opportunity for increased jobs in the green energy sector and new educational and professional ideas for young people as they consider their future education and careers.

Thank you to our fabulous solar committee – Cindy Skrukud, Nancy Schietzelt, Dave Kozlowski, Pat Dieckhoff, Jessica Beverly and Scott Kuykendall for the project idea and for their diligent work and patience as we waited for the state-wide legislation to pass.

Congratulations to Our 2022 Scholarship Winners!

BY DESTINY SEATON

We are thrilled to announce and introduce our 2022 Environmental Scholarship recipients: Emma Kropke, Jon Cian Gross, Kristina Robinson and Joseph Hissem. Emma is a graduate of Crystal Lake Central High School and plans to attend the University of Miami where she will major in marine biology and ecology with a minor in environmental sciences. While at the University of Miami, Emma hopes to track shark migration patterns and research how climate change has altered sharks' behavior. Jon Cian graduated from Woodstock High School and will attend Notre Dame, where he will major in neuroscience with a minor in sustainability or ecology. Jon Cian wants to explore the connections between medicine and the environment, and also plans to take advantage of Notre Dame's GreenD club opportunities by becoming a sustainability commissioner for his hall. Kristina graduated from Woodstock High School and will major in geography and environmental resources at Southern Illinois University- Carbondale. She was a 2021 CLIP intern with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, and after college wants to work as a park ranger in a national park, a restoration ecologist or a Geographic Information Science (GIS) specialist for a conservation organization. Joseph is a graduate of McHenry High School and will defer his scholarship to 2023, as he has joined the National Guard. He will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he will major in natural resources and environmental sciences with a minor in GIS. Joseph aspires to work for the EPA or the National Park System. Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to our Education Action Team and their application reviewers: Kim Compton, Bev Dow, Leslie Krebs and Bill Kreznor.



Left to right: Emma Kropke, Joseph Hissem, Kristina Robinson



Jon Cian Gross

Education and Advocacy – January through May, 2022

- Facilitated monthly Green Drinks events on Zoom and in-person/hybrid
- Participated in weekly legislative calls during session with the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) and shared IEC Action Alerts to Defenders' members
- Facilitated and hosted the McHenry County Watershed Coalition meeting via Zoom
- Distributed environmental protection information at Garden Fest at MCC in April
- Represented the Defenders on the new Climate Committee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- Represented the Defenders on the Solar for All Study Group of Illinois Solar for All and regional clean energy conversations
- Advocated for plastic reduction at municipal board/council meetings
- Advocated for Kishwaukee River restoration as new fiscal agent and home of Paddle the Kish volunteer group
- Advocated for soil health at the annual Earth Day event at Prairieview Education Center
- Distributed environmental protection information at Planet Palooza in Woodstock in May
- Advocated for adoption of the Fox River Corridor Plan from Burton's Bridge to Johnsborg at the County Planning, Environment, and Development Committee
- Advocated for best management practices to be required for utility scale solar farms in McHenry County at the County Zoning Board of Appeals
- Screened the documentaries "Kiss the Ground" and "Thirst for Justice" at McHenry County College.

Greening the World One Neighbor at a Time

BY CECILIA CARMAN

We all have those friends and neighbors who make excuses for not making small steps in their lives to be more sustainable. I always hear "you are a better human than me" or "composting is so gross and stinky, I can never do that." We live in an area where they do make it easy to be more sustainable. It is small steps we are asking them to make that can make big changes. As the Waste Reduction Co-Chair we are trying to promote composting, but I sometimes feel like giving up and think the only people who will do the work are the Defenders' members.

I live in Lake in the Hills where curbside composting is available. I have explained to my good friend and neighbor, you just throw your food scraps in a different garbage bin. However, they did not understand. They perceived I was asking them to make a bin that they need to turn and tend to. They wanted to do more but didn't have the time or the drive to make a home compost bin. I knew I could help. I had them over for dinner after the Earth Day Celebration and told them I had an Earth Day present. They were tickled and thought "Oh how cute of her." I handed them a kitchen compost bin and said when it's full just bring it over. They got excited and said "We can do that!" It started, rain or shine they gave me their compost bin. I would wash it out for them to help them keep up the great work. One Saturday as I was doing my yard work they came with their bin and I dumped it with my yard waste. They asked me what I was doing. I explained I do have two composting bins. I have one I keep to make my own soil, but I also place food scraps with my yard waste for items that may take a while to compost in the yard. They were completely shocked. They asked "So I can just put it in my yard waste bag?" I stated yes and explained how the process worked. This was not the first time I explained it to them, but I think seeing me do it they were able to let go of all their misconceptions and see how easy it is. This motivated them to do more. Weeks later I was at their house and they very proudly told me they called Flood Brothers and opted into the food scrap program. They then explained how they will rent the compost bin from Flood for the season and how Flood will take the bin back for the winter. I am so proud of them. They went from "this is gross" to being all in.

As we watch the news or see garbage in our streams, we can get so defeated. We can feel disconnected with our neighbors and their values. However, by us being good examples and having these conversations with our friends and neighbors, things can change. Me buying a \$35 bin has motivated a family to do more. They even told me they don't bring me their Styrofoam anymore because they drop it off themselves now. Who in your life has shown a little interest in your eco-friendly life that you can motivate? They might just need a push or nudge to get going. It may not always be a rosy story like this one, but it's us showing up to do what is right that will change the world one neighbor at a time.

Welcome New Defenders' Members!

Stephanie Kaye- Woodstock
 Jacqueline Malinowski- Harvard
 Direct Native Plants- Woodstock
 Nora & Bruce Handler- Woodstock
 Kristin Floress- Island Lake
 Gregg & Cindy Wikierak- Crystal Lake
 Mark Newton- Bull Valley
 Michael Szurek- Woodstock
 Margaret Miller- Lake in the Hills
 Boss Straws- Woodstock
 Aleksandra Etter- Crystal Lake
 Susan Lytinen- Rockford
 Debra Abraham- McHenry
 Becky Lambert- Belvidere
 Theresa Meshes- Fox River Grove
 Lisa Arvanities- Cary
 Sandra Brainard- Woodstock
 Alyssa Bushman- Lake in the Hills
 William & Katherine Weber- Woostock

JOIN BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TALKS AND TOURS MONTHLY ON FRIDAYS

BY CINDY SKRUKRUD

This year the Water & Natural Resources Protection Action Team is co-hosting with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development a series of Friday Talks and Tours that showcase some of the exciting Best Management Practices (BMPs) being implemented in McHenry County. The events are held monthly on Friday afternoons, to make attending them convenient for staff of municipalities, townships, school districts, park districts, libraries, schools and churches, as well as the general public.

Launched in April, the first three events included an overview of the many sustainable practices being implemented by Huntley School District 158 and up-to-date information on ways communities and individuals can plug into solar energy and electric vehicle opportunities and incentives.

Videos of past presentations and the BMP Talks and Tours schedule for the rest of the year can be found at tinyurl.com/FridayBMPTours. To register for and receive email reminders of the series, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/BMPTourSignup.

Upcoming BMP Talks and Tours are:

- *How to Successfully Manage Natural Landscaping* 1-3 pm, Friday, July 22, Spella Park (at the corner of Fairway View Drive and Wintergreen Terrace), Algonquin
- *Rain Gardens that Work* 1-3 pm, Friday, August 5 Woods creek Park, 1420 Willow Tree Drive, Crystal Lake
- *Green Infrastructure for Rights-of-Way* 1-3 pm, Friday, September 16, MCDOT Turf-to-Native Right of Way Project, Corner of McHenry Ave & Randall Rd, Crystal Lake



McHenry County Stream Signs: Phase 2 Underway!

A second grant from the Full Circle Family Fund and a generous donation from a Defenders' member have the Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team busy reaching out to municipalities and townships about placing signs at the stream crossings on their roadways. Last year in the first phase of this project, the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) placed signage at bridge crossings naming the stream and identifying whether the stream is in the Fox River or Kishwaukee River watershed on county roads. In this second phase, MCDOT will craft all the signs, and town and township staff will erect them. Phase 2 will fund the signage for 100 crossings throughout the county. Keep your eyes out for new signs coming soon!

Celebrate It's Our Fox River Day by Cleaning Up Boone Creek

It's Our Fox River Day (IOFRD) is a watershed-wide event that demonstrates a unified effort for caring for our Fox River. IOFRD is pronounced "I offered." The day is intended to be both an individual and collective event that offers a thank you to the Fox River. To celebrate, the Defenders Water & Natural Resources Protection Action Team is hosting a cleanup on Boone Creek, a Fox River tributary that runs through the City of McHenry. This cleanup will be held Saturday, September 17 from 9 to 11 am, or when all the trash has been removed.

Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and boots and to park in the Public Works parking lot at 1415 Industrial Dr in McHenry, located behind the Jewel grocery store. All necessary equipment, as well as snacks, will be provided. Please bring your own water. If you would like to help or have any questions about this event, please contact Cindy Skrukud at cskrukrud@gmail.com. Invite a friend and come help us make a positive difference in our environment and enjoy some time outdoors!

UPDATE FROM MCSEEP

BY HANNAH PFAFF

During the final stretch of the 2021-2022 school year, McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program (MCSEEP) was happy to be back in classrooms all over the county. With tubs of lesson materials in hand, we taught pre-K through 8th graders the importance of living lightly on our planet, how valuable and vulnerable our natural resources are and how to navigate into a career in the green sector.

Mr. Elders' 6th grade classes at Marlowe Middle School with students from Huntley, Lake in the Hills and Algonquin, studied watersheds with our interactive Enviroscape model (right). Learning the impacts of our land use from agriculture to industry to our own backyards.



During the summer we will be expanding our preschool lessons portfolio, organizing our office at the Woodstock Mall to accommodate inhouse events, as well as working with the schools to improve waste management and gardens.

This spring we also welcomed Jodi Stone, an exciting new addition, to our team of educators. With an extensive background in both teaching and developing STEM and environmental education curriculum throughout Northern Illinois, she will be a valuable addition to our staff and we feel very lucky to have her with us!



Annual Bike Ride

**Sunday, September 18 (Rain date- Sunday, September 25)
Meet at Town Park, Algonquin for RT ride
1PM**

Join the Environmental Defenders' Transportation Action Team as they cruise from Towne Park in Algonquin to East Dundee for a taste of local beer at Black and Gray Brewing. This roundtrip is about 12 miles of mostly easy, flat terrain and includes the Prairie Trail in McHenry County and the Fox River Trail in Kane. On the way, Defenders' executive director will talk about points of interest, including the mile-long stretch of trail that has been adopted by our organization through the McHenry County Conservation District's Adopt-a-Trail program as well as a bald eagle nesting area. Upon return we'll have a look at new construction on Main Street Algonquin and future plans for a River Walk.

McHenry County Towns Step Up On Mayor's Monarch Pledge

BY CINDY SKRUKRUD

In the spring of 2021, the Water & Natural Resources Protection Action Team launched an effort to encourage mayors throughout McHenry County to sign on to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Last summer intern Haley Wegener made reminder calls to each town. Then during the December 2021 through April 2022 signup period, team members reached out again to mayors throughout the county. Now we can report that 11 towns, Coral Township and Crystal Lake Park District have all pledged for 2022. Thank you to the mayors and village presidents of Algonquin, Bull Valley, Crystal Lake, Harvard, Huntley, Johnsburg, Lake in the Hills, Marengo, Union, Wonder Lake and Woodstock. The thirteen pledges from McHenry County represent 28% of the 47 pledges from all of Illinois! Each entity has pledged to undertake at least three actions during 2022. It is the second consecutive year that the City of Crystal Lake has pledged (2021 and 2022) and the villages of Algonquin and McCullom Lake also pledged in prior years.. You can read more about the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and what each town has pledged to do at nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge. You can also follow what is happening in towns in western McHenry County by joining the Facebook groups: Marengo-Union Mayor's Monarch Pledge and Harvard Monarch Pledge.

SUMMER INTERNS, NOW AND THEN

We are so excited to welcome four summer interns this year, introduced below and seen in this group photo from a June 24 group lunch. Many of our interns are Environmental Defenders' scholarship recipients from the year prior – a connection that has worked very nicely to help maintain continuity and support for young people who have a passion for the environment and conservation. Our paid internship program is in its fourth summer and is made possible through our annual fundraising and membership dinner held in March of each year.

Current interns

Jay Strang

Jay (bottom, right photo) graduated from Woodstock North High School last Spring. He began his college career at MCC but then transferred to Oregon State University where he is majoring in geological oceanography under the Water Resource Science degree program to obtain a career as an oceanographer. Jay will be interning with the Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team focusing mainly on water resources projects and providing related information for our new website, as well as helping with restoration work in the prairies that we manage.

Grace Rogers

Grace (top photo, middle) graduated from Prairie Ridge High School last Spring. She is now a student at Carleton College in Minnesota and will potentially be majoring in environmental science and sociology. She hopes to be involved in writing environmental policies in the future that will help to reduce the effects of climate change and to address issues related to environmental justice. Grace will be interning with the Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team focusing mainly on projects promoting habitat for pollinators and providing related information for our new website, as well as helping with restoration work in the prairies that we manage.

Alex Wojnicki

Alex (top photo, right) joins us this summer after advocating for an internship with us that is focused on environmental justice. With recent legislation at the state level concerning environmental justice issues and concerns of inclusiveness with our own organization and beyond, we were very excited about this prospect and accepted! Alex, a 2021 graduate of Woodstock H.S. began his college career at Appalachian State University and is transferring to St. Norberts College in WI where he'll be a sophomore in the fall with a political science and international studies double major.

Meghan McCann

Meghan (top photo, left), a graduate of Woodstock North H.S. and past recipient of the Defenders' college scholarship, is studying at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and spent her first year residing in the school's Sustainability Living-Learning Community. Meghan is working alongside the Defenders' Waste Reduction Action Team and has been connected to our organization in the past as a member with a specific interest in food waste reduction and composting. Meghan is considering a major in biochemistry or plant sciences with a minor in ecology and conservation biology.

Kaina Gonzalez

We are so excited to also welcome Kaina Gonzalez (bottom, left photo) , a recent graduate of the University of Chicago and Woodstock resident, to our team as a contractor working on Latino Outreach. Kaina will be helping to promote programs organized by The Defenders as well as our conservation coalition of organizations, Conversacion de Conservacion. A generous grant through the Cowlin Foundation makes this work possible and we're pleased to welcome Kaina to The Defenders, hopefully for many months to come.



Where are they now?

Haley Wegener

Haley will be going into her junior year at Iowa State this Fall. She is majoring in political science and environmental studies. She has an internship for this upcoming school year through an organization called Live Green! Iowa State, where she will be planning and implementing three campus-wide sustainability events during the 2022-2023 academic year. She says she is excited to continue to be involved with the Environmental Defenders for the time that she is home this summer!

Ian Shuman

Ian has been quite busy since interning with the Defenders last summer! In the fall he studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he focused on polar and marine biology. The program included a trip to Tromsø, Norway, where they got to learn about polar adaptations in plants and animals firsthand, both while hiking and onboard a cod fishing boat! In Denmark, they worked with harbor porpoises in the Øresund Strait and even dissected a Gray Seal! In the spring semester, he started work on his senior thesis, which aims to model distributions of oak savannas and beech-maple forests across Illinois and Indiana, so this summer, he'll be back at Notre Dame working on his thesis.

Isabel Bernardi

During the Summer of 2021, Isabel interned for the City of St. Charles Public Works Department. She helped with research regarding their water distribution as well as their wastewater treatment plant. She is currently taking a break from college to focus on herself. She plans to resume classes at Iowa State University in the spring or fall of 2023 where she will continue to pursue her degree in civil engineering.

Katie Evans

Katie was the Defenders' first ever communication intern. She graduated from Augustana College in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Geography and a minor in public health. An animal lover, her first job out of college was Health Educator/Volunteer Coordinator at McHenry County Animal Control and she is now Development Coordinator at Morris Animal Foundation in Denver, CO.

Jacob Karkowski

Jacob graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point last Spring. He worked as a seasonal employee with Baxter and Woodman doing prairie restoration work last summer and fall. During that time, and through the winter, he also volunteered as the steward of our Dean Street property. This spring he was hired as a botany technician with the Great Basin Institute and the BLM in northern California. They help to advance environmental research, education and service by promoting applied research and ecological literacy to support national parks, forests, open spaces and public lands. Jacob was an intern with us in 2019 and 2020.

Isabel Dunn

Isabel recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point with a B.S. in Fisheries and Water Resources, where she was honored to receive the Albertson Award, the highest recognition of student achievement at the university. She is currently participating in a research training program sponsored by the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago. It's been an amazing opportunity for her thus far, and she says she is so thankful for her time spent with the Defenders for strengthening her resolve to study our water resources!

Krista Park

Krista worked on waste reduction and recycling during her summer with us and focused a lot of energy on introducing successful recycling at the County Fair. Krista attended Eckerd College and graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Environmental Studies and a minor in applied mathematics. Krista will be relocating from her Illinois home base to Florida to start her new job as a Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations on the Eckerd College Search and Rescue Team. EC-SAR is a non-profit collegiate maritime rescue program helping people with jump starts and tows all the way to assisting county assets on 911 medical cases! The long-term goal though is to end up in conservation work and maybe even start her own company!

Paddle the Kish in Marengo Progress

BY PAT LAWLOR

Because of all the rain this spring, paddling on the Kish has been the best in a long time. Siems Memorial Park in Union has a newly installed chute to help paddlers access the river. There are a couple portages between Siems and Hwy 23 around fallen trees, but nothing unusual - there will be several workdays to remove those in June. As of now, the Kish is not paddleable west of Hwy 23. The safe places to get out of the river: Hwy 176 after the bridge on the left at the stack of railroad tie - past the abandoned house, this is private property; Millstream Rd - take the right branch under the bridge, then dock on the left, parking on the southwest side of the bridge; Deerpass Rd - go around the fallen tree and turn extremely left into the channel that runs along the southeast of the bridge, it is easy to drag your kayak up the slope rather than along the riprap of the bridge; Woodbine Launch is an approved landing on City of Marengo property - be sure not to drive a vehicle past the boat drop-off point due to nasty stumps and possible flooding, there is plenty of parking on higher ground. Hwy 23 has approved parking outside the water treatment fence on the north side of the driveway by the "no littering" sign. It's an easy walk along the grass from the river. Do not park on the driveway since emergency vehicles need that access. Do not kayak west of that point since the Kish is still littered with tree falls.

Always wear a PFD and paddle with a buddy. River kayaking takes practice and skill, so although the Kish is narrow and looks like fun, beginning kayakers should paddle on lakes and still water for a while, then paddle with an experienced river paddler. Everyone should always paddle safely. Check <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/05438170/#parameterCode=00060&period=P7D> for the latest current flow. Below 50cfs is too little water to paddle, and over 400cfs is unsafely fast. Check for current info or to ask questions: <https://www.facebook.com/PaddleMarengo.patlawlor117@gmail.com> Happy paddling!



Another Successful Use it Again Garage Sale!

What a great group of volunteers we had for the 2022 Use It Again Sale held at Algonquin Township Road District Garage in May! Thanks so much to everyone who helped, including those who set things up, accepted donations, sold items, and cleaned up the remains. All those involved helped us earn \$1981 – not bad for the number of items that we received this year. Above: Anne Basten, Fundraising Action Team Chair, and on the right is Diane Greenman, co-organizer of the event.



Float the Fox with The Defenders and Paddle On! Outfitters, Inc.

With special guest Gary Swick from Friends of the Fox River

When: Saturday, July 30, 10AM

Where: Meet at Voyageur Landing Forest Preserve at 50 Airport Rd. in Elgin to leave autos and Paddle On will shuttle us up to the boats. (They'll shuttle you and your boat if you're bringing your own.)

How: Order your kayak and shuttle through Paddle On! Outfitters (see URL below) or just a shuttle if you have your own boat/s.

Stretch: Buffalo Park, Algonquin to Voyageur Landing, Elgin – about an eight mile journey.

SIGN UP at www.paddleonoutfitters.com - 815-762-4009

This trip is on one of the nicest natural stretches of the Fox River, as it is dominated by Kane County Forest Preserve property. It will truly be unique in many ways. It will be an opportunity not only to appreciate the beautiful Fox River and its abundant bird life, this may be your last opportunity to paddle the Carpentersville dam's impoundment as the dam is scheduled for removal this fall. This may also be your last time to portage (woohoo!) and when we do, we'll be met by Gary Swick, President of Friends of the Fox River. Gary will discuss the dam's history and benefits of its removal for restoring the health of the Fox River. We'll also stop for lunch at Rosie O'Hares in East Dundee right along the river. Expect an approximate 5-hour day with dam removal talk and lunch. Questions? Contact trip guide, Cynthia Kanner, at defendersdirector@gmail.com.



TRIANGLE PRAIRIE PLANTING

On a beautiful Spring day on May 30th, 2022, about 25 volunteers gathered to plant 490 native prairie plants in Triangle Prairie at the corner of Hwy. 14 and Lake Avenue in Woodstock. The Defenders have been working to extend this high quality prairie southeastward by removing boxelder trees that had thickly invaded the area. Appropriate native plants were chosen for both the dry and wet portions of this part of the 4 acre property. The event was well organized and conducted by Connor Patterson aided by Austin Steward, site steward at Triangle. We extend a huge thank you to the Woodstock Rotary Club for providing grant funding for this project! And thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to plant!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 5, 2022
10 a.m.–3 p.m. | FREE Admission
McHenry County College

Registration open now at
www.mchenry.edu/greenexpo

For more information, call (815) 479-7765
 or email sustainability@mchenry.edu



Sometimes life just gets too full! That is the case for Claire Hodge as she leaves our board. You may remember that Claire served on our board for a time back in 2010 into 2011 after graduating from college. She accomplished a lot for the Defenders during that time before a job and further education called her away to Minnesota.

Since that time, Claire received her M. S. in Agroecology from the University of Minnesota, focusing on building resilient community food systems. Then in 2019 she and her husband Nick moved back to Illinois to buy a home, start a family and set roots in Crystal Lake. We welcomed her back with open arms and she was eager to join our board again. Little Owen Hodge soon enlarged their family, while at the same time Claire started her own small farm where she grew many vegetables for area restaurants and local customers. Now she is carrying on with her farming while also taking a job with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County as part of their farming program. She also serves on the Board of the Foodshed Coop, which aligns with her education and work. Whew!

So, Claire recently let us know that she would be leaving our board, with a heavy heart. We certainly appreciated her time serving with us, especially all her efforts with the Waste Reduction Action Team to conduct a very successful Sustainability Summit in the winter. We wish Claire great success with all that she is doing and hope that if life ever slows down a little for her, that she may join our board once again!

THANK YOU, CLAIRE!

BY NANCY SCHIETZELT



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please consider volunteering at our display in Conservation World at the County Fair Tuesday, August 2- Sunday, August 7

Contact Pat Lawlor:
patlawlor117@gmail.com

BOOKSTORE NEWS

BY SUE JENSEN & PAM JOHNSON

Summer is upon us and the bookstores are getting busier by the day with people stocking up on their summer reading. There are wonderful beach reads and children's books to be found in both stores.



Looking for something fun and different to do this summer? The Green Read will be participating in the Find Waldo Local month-long scavenger hunt event in July. If you spot the six-inch Waldo standee in the store, you will get your "Find Waldo in Crystal Lake!" card signed. There will be prizes for the first 125 participants who collect stamps/signatures from at least 10 businesses, plus a Waldo party on July 30th.

Downtown Crystal Lake will be having its summer Sidewalk Sales Days from July 14 - 17. Stop by The Green Read and other downtown stores for great bargains. You never know what you might find that you just can't live without! If you are on the Woodstock Square for the Farmers Market on Saturdays, stop by the Green Spot while you are there. This summer the store is open at 10am on Saturdays, an hour earlier than it has been in the past.



There have been some exciting changes to the bookstores. If you haven't been by The Green Spot lately, stop in to check out the new white bookcases, with environmental, gardening and science books directly in front of you when you walk in. The Clearance Corner is undergoing a major renovation as well, with newly painted walls and ceiling tiles, and books relocated from open boxes on utility tables onto bookcases, some generously donated by Defenders supporters. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped assemble and place the new bookcases, move and replace all the books, and thanks to board member Ken Santowski for allowing the delivery and assembly of the bookcases at his warehouse in Elgin.

Recent new changes at The Green Read have been the addition of a new tiered display table near the puzzles, obtained from the Jeri's Hallmark store that recently went out of business in Crystal Lake. There are also many new unique, eco-friendly products. These include felted flower and beeswax wrap DIY kits, plant pokes and porch signs made from recycled siding, beeswax taper candles, embedded seed greeting cards and seed packs for birds and pollinators, all natural book-themed soy jar candles and an adorable line of bookmarks and greeting cards wrapped in biodegradable cornstarch cellophane.

Many thanks to the Huntley High School Service in Action group that collected books and donated them to Defenders bookstores. Many thanks as well to the Village of Huntley for books they collected on their Green & Clean Huntley Day for donation to nonprofits, of which the Defenders was one. We appreciate all your hard work and support!

Last but definitely not least, a huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who have been instrumental in keeping the stores open, inviting, and organized, as well as lending a hand with the ongoing remodeling projects. You are the heart of our stores, and are very much appreciated!

SAVE THE DATE

The Environmental Defenders Annual Big Fall Book Sale!

Located at the Algonquin Township Road District Building B Garage (toward the back on the right)

3702 Northwest Highway Crystal Lake

Sept. 24 - Oct. 8
10am - 4pm
(Closed on Sundays)

Stay tuned for more information on social media & in our eNews!

**Earth Care Team News
Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church**



The Earth Care Team of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church is preparing the soil in an area in front of the church for native plants. In the photo Joan Jensema and Beth Holland are removing the winter creeper that grows in that space which must be removed before any plants can be placed there. Jensema solicited the help of Ken Williams, a retired landscaper, and his wife Christine Nye, a retired Shedd Aquarium landscaper, to begin the removal on Friday, April 29. Ken recommended that 2 people work together on a small area at a time with one person pulling the vine with a metal rake and the other using a flat spade to cut under it. It's not super hard but does require some muscle and is tedious and time consuming.

Ken also said it's best not to put any mulch on the areas that have been cleared but to watch for signs of the root peeking up. Jensema will apply a small amount of herbicide to individual roots as they appear. Hopefully, the area will be ready for planting by this Fall.

Join in the Monarch Fest on Sunday, August 14



Migrate to the Crystal Lake beach for the afternoon to enjoy this free event and learn all about monarch butterflies and how you can help them and other pollinators thrive. The Monarch Fest will include butterfly and native pollinator plant info from many groups, including the Defenders' Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team, face painting, science and art activities and a big migration route map showing the Monarch butterflies' amazing yearly journey from their winter grounds in the mountains of Mexico to their summer homes in the USA and Canada. Native pollinator plants from participating nurseries will be available for purchase.

The Monarch Fest will run from 12:30-4:30 pm on Sunday, August 14 at the Main Beach Pavilion at 300 Lakeshore Dr in Crystal Lake. You are also invited to enjoy a community band showcase at the beach bandshell from 1-4:15 pm. Bring your blanket and a picnic!

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ABOUT EARTHCONNECT NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

July

Sat 16 | Document Shredding Event

9am - noon
Woodstock North High School, Woodstock

FRI 22 | Best Management Practices Talk

1pm - 3pm
Spella Park, Algonquin

SAT 30 | Float the Fox

10am
Buffalo Park Forest Preserve, Algonquin

August

TUES 2 - SUN 7 | McHenry County Fair

Woodstock

FRI 5 | Best Management Practices Talk

1-3pm
Willow Tree Dr, Crystal Lake

SAT 13 | Corn Roast

4pm-8pm (ish)
Pioneer Tree Farm, McHenry

SUN 14 | Monarch Fest

12:30pm-4:30pm
Main Beach, Crystal Lake

Sat 20 | Document Shredding Event

9am - noon
McHenry County Dept of Health, Woodstock

WED 31 | McHenry County Water Forum

5:30pm-8pm
McHenry County College Auditorium

September

FRI 16 | Best Management Practices Talk

1-3pm
Corner of McHenry Ave & Randall Rd, Crystal Lake

SAT 17 | McHenry County Recycling Drive

9am - noon
Woodstock North high School, Woodstock

SAT 17 - SAT OCT 8 | Fall book Sale

Algonquin Township Road District, Crystal Lake

SAT 24 | Annual Bike Ride

1pm
Town Park, Algonquin

Recurring Events

FIRST WED OF EVERY MONTH | Green Drinks

5pm - 7pm
Duke's Alehouse & Kitchen
In-person and virtually on Zoom
Registration required, Presentation begins at 6pm

THIRD SAT OF EVERY MONTH |

Triangle Prairie Work Day

9am - 11am
Corner of Lake Ave & Hwy 14, Woodstock

FOURTH SAT OF EVERY MONTH |

Defenders' Property Work Day

9am - 11am
2222 Dean St., Woodstock

FOURTH SUN OF EVERY MONTH |

Sterne's Fen Restoration Work Day

9am - 11am
5617 Hillside Dr, Crystal Lake

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106
Woodstock, IL 60098

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Open Thursday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Closed Sunday
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110 S. Johnson Street, Woodstock, IL



The Green Read
Gently used books & sustainable gifts
Open Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
779-220-4945
61 N. Williams Street, Crystal Lake, IL



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.

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