

VOL. 18 ISSUE 2 · SPRING 2023

# EARTHCONNECT



Quarterly Newsletter of the Environmental Defenders  
of McHenry County

## 2023 ANNUAL DINNER

BY DESTINY SEATON, COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST

After a very successful Annual Dinner at McHenry Country Club in 2022, we decided to move the 2023 Defenders' Annual Dinner to a new location: Hickory Hall in Crystal Lake. The venue has been gorgeously renovated, and provided an elegant atmosphere to the event. There were about 180 people in attendance.

The night kicked off with a cocktail and socializing hour that included time to browse the wonderful items up for grabs in the Bag Raffle. Our Fundraising Action Team worked extremely hard for several months on our Annual Silent Auction, and were able to spread the in-person Bag Raffle throughout the rooms of Hickory Hall. We once again held our Silent Auction online, including an online 50/50 raffle, as well as an in-person 50/50 raffle. The team raised almost \$6,000! Thank you to all of our volunteers, and to those who bid on items!

Our keynote speaker this year was John H. Giordanengo (below), author of "Ecosystems as Models for Restoring Our Economies." John was introduced by Leslie Krebs, and gave an engaging and dynamic presentation laying out the basics of his research that indicate the same drivers that govern the health and resilience of our environment, also govern our economies. (Cont. on PG 6)



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And more...



## DEFENDERS SHOW UP FOR COUNTY'S 2050 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY NANCY SCHIETZELT, BOARD MEMBER

When the Defenders asked our members to turn out for an opportunity to provide input into the County's 2050 Comprehensive Plan, that's exactly what they did! About 40 people showed up to share ideas related to environmental protection that should be included in the plan. The Chair of the Commission praised us for having the largest group of any they had met with. Topics brought up included greenways, compact/contiguous development near established communities, watershed protection and more. Thanks to everyone who attended and shared their thoughts about protecting the environment in our county as we plan for a more sustainable future!

## LOOKING AT EARTH DAY IN A NEW WAY

BY CECILIA CARMAN, CO-CHAIR OF WASTE REDUCTION ACTION TEAM

Most of us spend Earth Day with our environmental friends doing things we all love. It feels like we preach to the choir all day about being environmentally friendly, and yet still wish our other friends and family would join us.

I'm suggesting a new tradition: get your friends an Earth Day gift. We can give them a way to be more environmentally friendly without them doing all the work. Last year, I gave my friends a kitchen compost bin. I am happy to say they were pleasantly surprised how easy curbside composting is, and have taught me some things as well. This year, I will give them a membership to the Defenders. You'd be surprised how many times our towns and villages get credit for everything we do, so reading the newsletter will be eye-opening for them.

I challenge you to do the same. Instead of reminding friends about how to be more sustainable, just do it for them. If they live in a town where you need to sign up for curbside composting; fill out the form for them, or make them a magnet of what is accepted in the recycling bin. The ideas are endless.

Please don't worry about offending them. They see you as an amazing friend or family member who is also their favorite tree hugger. They might just appreciate the little push you give, but please remember they may take all the credit for the changes you initiated. But hey, they are family and we can let this go for old Mother Nature. I can't wait to hear what everyone has done, and I'm so glad there is no Earth Day wrapping paper. No waste, only inspiration.

## Race to Reduce Waste: McHenry County Composting Pilot Program

BY ZAK DOLEZAL, BOARD MEMBER

Let's Get Composting McHenry County! The Defenders' Waste Reduction Action Team has been hard at work gathering businesses, especially restaurants, throughout McHenry County to sign up for their McHenry Composting Pilot Program. The team is working with WasteNot to do the compost hauling as well as EcoProducts to help source compostable containers. They originally needed 10 businesses to sign up for the program, but have already gathered over 15 businesses. WasteNot's compost bins will be dropped off at businesses starting March 20th. Then, starting April 20th, we will need you to show your support of these participating businesses during our "Race to Reduce Waste" promotion. Stay tuned for more information about how you can get involved and get our county's businesses composting.



## BOOKSTORE NEWS

BY PAM JOHNSON & DIANE GREENMAN, MANAGER & ASST. MANAGER

Happy spring from the “Green” bookstores! We wanted to share some interesting tidbits about them. Did you know that in 2022...

- The Green Read and Green Spot bookstores combined sold over 17,200 books?
- Our dedicated team of volunteers at the two stores worked over 4,000 hours, averaging almost 350 hours per month? So grateful for all they do!!!
- The best-selling genres at both stores are children’s books, general fiction and mystery/thrillers, in that order?
- Sales income has more than doubled at The Green Spot between 2020 and 2022?
- 39 bags of books were purchased during our Bag Sales in the Clearance Corner?
- Our highest sales were in December, followed by July, June and November?
- The majority of our new customers at both stores found them when they were just walking by?



**THERE'S A \$10 BAG SALE IN THE CLEARANCE CORNER THE LAST THREE BUSINESS DAYS OF MOST MONTHS.**

Have you ever wondered where all of the wonderful books that fill our shelves come from? In addition to individuals who donate books to our stores, we are very grateful for the generous donations from Toys for Tots and the Double Take consignment shop in Crystal Lake. Assistant Manager Diane Greenman also checks the children’s book drop-off bin at the Algonquin Township on a weekly basis.

A wonderful new addition to both stores is a newly developed procedures manual. A big thank you goes to volunteer Melanie Korzuchowski for all the hard work and effort she put into putting these together! They should prove extremely helpful to all of our bookstore volunteers.

Speaking of new things, in March we tried something different: grab-and-go activity bags for spring break. Filled with items such as coloring and activity books, chapter and picture books, games, and arts and crafts activities. The bags were each unique and intended to keep kids busy, whether they are traveling or on a stay-cation. If they prove popular, we may offer them again in the summer.

We are hoping to host some fun events and activities at the bookstores in April to celebrate Earth Day. Plans are in the works but not finalized yet... keep an eye on the eNews and the bookstores’ newsletter for more details.

Both book clubs are going strong. New members are always welcome! Please contact [thegreenreadbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenreadbookstore@gmail.com) for more information on either the Nature Nerds (environment or nature-themed fiction or non-fiction books) or the Green Readers (variety of genres of books chosen by members).

The warmer weather means the Farmers Market will be moving back to the Woodstock Square on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Stop by the Green Spot and say hi if you’re on the square. You may even find one of us handing out promotional coupons at the Saturday Market! Please help us spread the word about our bookstores. If you are active on social media, please follow and “like” both of the stores on Facebook and share our posts with your family and friends. Many thanks!



**LEFT: ITEMS IN THE ONLINE SILENT AUCTION WERE DISPLAYED IN THE FRONT WINDOW OF THE GREEN READ BEFORE THE DEFENDERS’ ANNUAL MEETING IN MARCH.**



**RIGHT: THE GREEN READERS BOOK CLUB AT THEIR FEBRUARY MEETING AT THE GREEN READ.**

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THIS YEAR'S BMP TALKS & TOURS SERIES

BY CINDY SKRUKRUD, CHAIR OF WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM

The Water & Natural Resources Protection Action Team and the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development is excited to announce our second year of Friday BMP Talks and Tours. These events showcase exciting Best Management Practices (BMPs) being implemented in McHenry County. Videos of past Talks and Tours can be found at [tinyurl.com/FridayBMPTours](https://tinyurl.com/FridayBMPTours), and we are posting our 2023 schedule there as we finalize our plans.

- The term 'Best Management Practices', or BMPs, was coined as a way to describe state-of-the-art practices implemented to protect and maintain the integrity of natural resources and promote conservation of land, water and energy.
- A BMP can be a structural "thing" that you actually install on-the-ground. Examples include storm water treatment trains, rain gardens, energy-saving buildings, etc.
- A BMP can also be part of the "process" that you use to plan, design, construct and conduct your operations. Examples include energy conservation measures, conservation design for developments and practices such as sensible road salting programs.

The events are held 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. To be added to the email list for this series, fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/BMPTourSignup>.

So far, we've held a virtual session about How to Dim the Lights for Birds, Insects and Stars and Bull Valley's new ordinance designed to reduce light pollution. Find a video of the session at the first link above. We are finalizing the schedule for other sessions that will cover Incentives for Adopting Clean Energy Practices, State of the Art Stormwater Management, Business Sustainability Practices, and the New Salt Smart Training and Certification Program for Parking Lots and Sidewalks. Our Friday, July 28th talk and tour all about pollinator gardens will be held at the Johnsburg schools campus. Small Waters Education worked with the Johnsburg School District 12 students and staff to refresh and expand their pollinator garden a few years ago and it is sure to be buzzing the day of our visit!

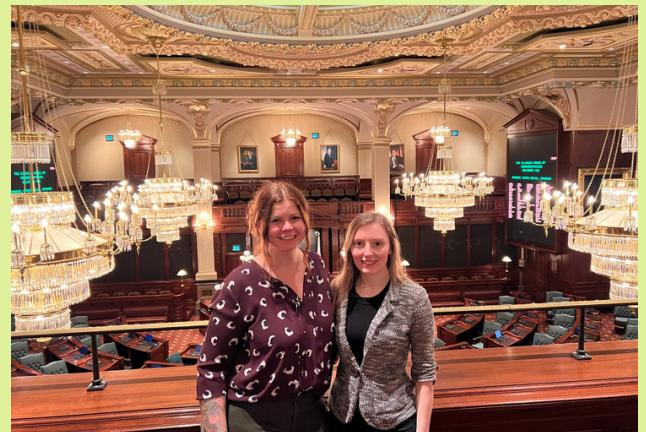


## COALITION FOR PLASTIC REDUCTION LOBBY DAY

BY MICHELLE MURYN & ASHLEY LANGE, BOARD MEMBER & CO-CHAIR OF WASTE REDUCTION TEAM

On February 22nd the Coalition for Plastic Reduction (CPR) held a lobby day to gain support for SB0100. Michelle Muryn, Co-Chair of the Waste Reduction Action Team, and Ashley Lange, the newest Defenders' Board Member, traveled to Springfield to participate in the Lobby Day and meet with their district representatives to ask for their support.

They attended the morning press conference and listened to multiple speakers talk about the importance of addressing Styrofoam, and their personal experiences. Throughout the day they engaged with other inspiring activists of different backgrounds, ages, experience levels and environmental organizations. In the afternoon, Ashley and Michelle were able to meet with their district representatives and thank a couple representatives that had already agreed to support the bill.



Ashley had a productive conversation with State Senator DeWitte(R). Working for a small business in manufacturing, she was able to provide insight on the industry's growing focus on sustainable practices. Ashley also shared photos and information from her time volunteering for Defenders' Styrofoam collection. This seemed to be an educational and eye-opening talk for Sen. DeWitte, leaving him "inclined to vote yes" on the bill.

Michelle met with State Representative McLaughlin(R). They had an engaging conversation about the environmental, social and financial impacts of Styrofoam with a heavy focus on the financial impacts for small businesses. Michelle talked about the Waste Reduction Team's on-going efforts to work with local restaurants in McHenry County, and examples of restaurants that have successfully transitioned. McLaughlin expressed interest in supporting the bill, but requested more information on the financial impacts and was interested in speaking with businesses that have already transitioned from Styrofoam.

# UPDATE FROM MCSEEP

BY PAMELA DUNCAN KING, DIRECTOR OF MCSEEP

This spring, MCSEEP is restarting the Spring Youth Groundwater Festival with our partners from the McHenry County Planning and Development Department and the McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District. This field experience will have the students outdoors learning about the importance of conserving and preserving our groundwater for future generations. This will be the first Youth Groundwater Festival since the fall of 2019.

On May 11th, we will be hosting 6th and 7th grade students from McHenry County Schools at the Soil and Water Conservation Auxiliary Building on Dean Street in Woodstock. The students will be participating with soil and water professionals from McHenry County as well as our MCSEEP staff to learn more about stormwater and floodplains, groundwater and groundwater contamination, how macroinvertebrates can be used to monitor surface water, soil profiles, soil testing and methods of controlling water pollution. The Groundwater Festival complements the MCSEEP middle school curriculum that focuses on the watershed, climate change and green careers.

In addition to the Groundwater Festival, we continue our mission to increase awareness of the importance of the environment to inspire action by our students. Since September of 2022, we have so far taught the MCSEEP curriculum in 203 classrooms throughout McHenry County and interacted with over 5,000 students with our K-8 curriculum. From March to May, we will be in multiple classrooms and schools each week.

Each quarter we highlight one of our Environmental Educators that make the MCSEEP program exemplary. This month, please meet Andy Long. Andy Long is a former high school science teacher. He taught in Chicago Public Schools for five years. In addition to his passion for teaching and the environment, he loves cooking, being outside and spending time with his family. He lives in Crystal Lake with his triplets and his wife.



**LEFT: WATER POLLUTION BEING DEMONSTRATED**



**RIGHT: SCOTT KUYKENDALL USING A GROUNDWATER MODEL**



**LEFT: STUDENTS SAMPLE SURFACE WATER FOR MACROINVERTEBRATES**



**RIGHT: ANDY TEACHING A 4TH GRADE CLASS ABOUT ENERGY, FALL 2022**

## ANNUAL DINNER CONT.



During the business portion of the dinner, we presented four awards and one recognition.

The Theta Award was presented to Green Drinks McHenry County (top left: Destiny Seaton, Anne Basten, Pat Dieckhoff, Nancy Williamson, Zak Dolezal, Lyn Campbell, Leslie Krebs, Nancy Schietzelt, Carl Edstrom) for fourteen years of monthly presentations educating the public of McHenry County and beyond on a variety of environmental topics including solar energy, Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, sustainable business practices, environmental justice, electric vehicles, local parks and environmental services, recycling, waste reduction and so much more; for providing a space for people interested in the environment to network; and for continuing to expand the reach of their services by making their programming available on Zoom throughout the pandemic and into the future.



The Government Award was presented to Crystal Lake Park District (left, second from top: Cathy Cagle, President of the Board of Commissioners; Preston Skultety, Manager of Natural Resources; Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services; Sarah Michehl, Vice President-Board of Commissioners; John Fiorina, Interpretive Services Facility Manager) for hiring a full-time natural resources manager in 2022; maintaining pesticide-free parks; renovating the Nature Center to better serve the community and expand environmental education courses for all ages; participating in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge for several years in a row; being guardians to multiple waterways in the county; partnering with us to manage Sterne's Fen; actively participating in the creation of IEPA approved Watershed Plans; and partnering with us to conduct a Best Management Practices Talk and Tour about creating and managing bioswales and natural areas.



The Business Award was given to a local farm for the first time ever. Broadview Farm and Gardens (left, third from top: board member Zak Dolezal, Owner Tim Brown, Owner Delicia Brown) was given the award for spending two years restoring their land with rotational grazing, seeding and planting to improve McHenry County's soil health; selling their fresh fruits and vegetables to local businesses; and their community involvement and activism in sustainable food production within our county.



Environmental Defenders' Waste Reduction Action Team (left, fourth from top: Michelle Muryn, Cecilia Carman, Ashley Lange, Kari Gassman, Annette Parrent, and Zak Dolezal) was given the Volunteer(s) of the Year Award for going above and beyond to grow the Waste Reduction Action Team and the reach of the Defenders by planning and executing two Sustainability Summits in 2022 to work with businesses, schools and officials to establish county-wide waste reduction goals; meeting twice monthly to maintain relationships within the community and with relevant organizations; hosting the first Waste Reduction intern and supporting her on multiple projects including a Food Asset Map; partnering with the Recycling Action Team in their Styrofoam Recycling program; and developing a plan to start a pilot composting program in the county.



Sarah Lanza (bottom left: board member Nancy Scheitzelt and Sarah Lanza) was given the Young Defender Award for consistently volunteering for restoration workdays at Sterne's Fen and Wingate Prairie; being an active member of the Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team and volunteering to table at the Green Living Expo; and for serving as the president of the Prairie Ridge High School Environmental Club.

Lastly, in recognition of the creation of the Ted and Judy Thornton Next 50 Years Fund, the Board of Directors presented Ted Thornton (top left: Katie Parkhurst, Ted Thornton and board member Carl Edstrom) with a certificate acknowledging their long-time membership, volunteer efforts and significant contributions in support of the Defenders' mission. We hope the existence of this fund encourages other people to follow Ted's example to insure the health and functioning of the organization for the next fifty years. Thank you, Ted!

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Also during the business portion of the meeting, we approved the minutes from the 2022 meeting, recognized Nancy Schietzelt (right, third from top; board member Nancy Schietzelt and board member Lori McConville) and Alice Lumsden (right, fourth from top) for their unwavering dedication to the organization as they both prepare to leave the Board of Directors, and we voted in Ashley Lange (bottom right: President Kim Hankins and Ashley Lange) as our newest board member.

We had the pleasure of having our cake made by Uprising Bakery & Café, and were able to enjoy it after dinner. The vegan cake was a show-stopping piece with a rotating Environmental Defenders' shield on the top.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of our 2023 Annual Dinner: Marvin's Toy Store; Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen; McHenry County College Sustainability Center; Phil Zack; Kristina Zahorik; Bluestem Ecological Services; and William R. Kreznor & Associates, Inc. Last, but certainly not least, thank you so much to all of the incredible volunteers who make our organization and events possible!



## State & Federal Incentives Available for Energy Efficiency & Electrification

BY KAINA GONZALEZ, INTERN

Becoming energy efficient, or using less energy for the same services, is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy use. By reducing energy use, consumers save money and reduce carbon emissions, making it one of many climate change solutions. Between the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), federal legislation passed in 2022, and the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA)- a state act passed in 2021, several tax credits and rebates are available for energy efficiency and electrification for residents in our county. Low and Medium Income (LMI) residents can often receive higher incentives. This includes tax credits for weatherization, renewable energy, battery systems, electric vehicles, and rebates for electric appliances. A good overview of some of these opportunities can be found at the Citizen Utility Board website: <https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/blog/2022/08/03/cub-explainer-the-inflation-reduction-act/>

This year, the Environmental Defenders has been awarded a grant from McHenry County's Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program to inform and educate McHenry County residents about the various incentives and rebates they can combine and utilize through IRA and CEJA to improve their energy efficiency and transition to cleaner forms of energy. Beginning in May, the Defenders will host various free virtual and in-person informational sessions regarding these incentives. Additionally, the Environmental Defenders will host a web page residents can visit for links to resources that will continuously be updated and accessible anytime.

We'd love to hear about your experience! Please get in touch with us if you are an organization or individual already taking advantage of state and federal rebates or incentives through IRA and CEJA.

In addition, if you are an organization or individual interested in having us present, or if there are specific topics within the scope of our project you are interested in learning more about, please connect with us.

Contact info:

Cindy Skrukud, 815-353-5123, cskrukud@gmail.com

Nancy Schietzelt, 815-356-1710, buroak92@gmail.com

Kaina Gonzalez, gonzalezkaina10@gmail.com



### Inside the 2023 Edition

- Section on plastic film
- Guest article on the McHenry County Solid Waste Plan
- New dates for 2023 recycling events
- June 24 Household Hazardous Waste Event

MCC Sustainability Center  
(815) 479-7765 | Room C122  
[www.mchenry.edu/green](http://www.mchenry.edu/green)  
[sustainability@mchenry.edu](mailto:sustainability@mchenry.edu)



**Welcome New Defenders' Members!**  
Heidi Fitzpatrick- Crystal Lake  
Laura & Andrew Zeiger- Raleigh, NC  
Kyle Davis- Lake in the Hills  
Diane Charleston- Harvard  
Melissa Thompson- Crystal Lake  
Bill Halloran- Cary  
Frank & Jill Mills- Harvard  
Carol Elkins- Crystal Lake  
Dawn Milarski- Hebron  
Alexis Morris- Hebron  
Paul Ring- Woodstock  
Pat Christian- Woodstock  
Pat & Guy Inman- Woodstock  
Kyle Kandel- Hebron  
Christine Grimm- Hebron  
Vern & Cindy Heinen- Harvard  
Mackie Snebold- Spring Grove  
Mark Quandahl- Huntley  
Amanda Parrish- Woodstock  
Diane Dodd Hall- West Dundee  
Christopher Gassman- Crystal Lake



## UPDATE FROM PADDLE THE KISH

BY PAT LAWLOR, DIRECTOR OF PADDLE THE KISH

The spring paddle season is here and the 1,400 people who follow our Facebook page are excited to throw their kayak in the Kishwaukee and get paddling. The water trail that was cleared before the winter storms is Siems Park in Union to Woodbine Launch in Marengo. Siems Memorial Park opens to the public for the season on April 1, but the gate locks at sunset, so plan ahead to pick up any shuttle vehicle. In 2022, workers were not able to get onto the Kish until mid June due to high and dangerous water levels. In 2021 we were hard at work by April 10, so its hard to predict.



If you check the United States Geological Survey water gauge website at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/05438170/#parameterCode=00060&period=P7D>, you can see the current discharge level. Below 70 is not enough water to float, and above 700 the flow is too dangerous to make all the turns safely without fear of slamming into strainers on the opposite bank. Of course, the water flow needs to be relatively low for workers to use chainsaws. Our Facebook page Paddle the Kish in Marengo is the best place to find current information- pun intended! The Kish west of Hwy 23 to Thorne Rd still needs to be cleared in 2023 and is not suitable for paddling. Feel free to enter at Thorne Rd and paddle west into Boone and Winnebago Counties to enjoy our beautiful river. Also, watch the Facebook page to volunteer to clear that last mile so we can paddle from Siems to Rockford!!

The Environmental Defenders, Paddle the Kish and Paddle On! Outfitters in Genoa are partnering for a group paddle on the Kish on the weekend of June 3 and 4, depending on the weather and the water levels. Stay tuned to any of those 3 websites for up-to-date info on the trip. You can bring your own gear with a shuttle fee, or rent from Paddle On! for a fun day. Pencil in that weekend starting in the morning with a gathering afterwards at Checkers in Union.

## IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE 2023 DEFENDERS' GARAGE SALE!

BY MELANIE KORZUCHOWSKI, VOLUNTEER

Check your attic, basement, garage and ask your friends for resalable things to donate to the Defenders. The items must be CLEAN and with all their parts (cords, rechargeable batteries, etc.) so they are in good USABLE condition.

Things that sell well include toys, tools, kitchenware, indoor and outdoor furniture, and lawn and garden items. We are not able to accept clothing; used stuffed toys or furniture; large appliances; non-working small appliances; TVs; computers and monitors; and baby items like car seats, carriers, cribs or strollers.

Your donations are greatly appreciated! Please drop them off at the Algonquin Township Garage during the timeframe listed. If you are looking for other opportunities, consider volunteering at the sale with setup, pricing, selling, and/or cleanup.

**DROP OFF DONATIONS:** SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH 2PM-4PM AND MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH-7TH 10AM-3PM.

**SETUP/PRICING:** SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH 2PM-4PM AND MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH-7TH 10AM-3PM.

**SALE:** THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH 9AM-4PM.

**CLEANUP:** SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH 12:30PM~2:00PM.

**LOCATION:** ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT GARAGE B, 8900 ROUTE 14, CRYSTAL LAKE

**SIGNUP TO VOLUNTEER ONLINE AT** [WWW.MCDEF.ORG](http://WWW.MCDEF.ORG)

**QUESTIONS?** PLEASE EMAIL THE EDMC OFFICE AT [ENVIRODEFMC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ENVIRODEFMC@GMAIL.COM) OR CALL 815-338-0393.

## 2023 CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY UPDATE



## Citizens' Climate Lobby

BY RENEE HILL, CCL MEMBER

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Our chapter is just one of hundreds of chapters across the US working to create the political will for a livable world. We always need volunteers and members to take action concerning our climate.

CCL's original single policy, determined by economists and scientists to be the best first step to lower carbon emissions, is a carbon fee and dividend. It has been introduced in Congress in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Three new policy initiatives were just added this year: Healthy Forests, Building Electrification and Efficiency, and Clean Energy Permitting Reform. The McHenry County Chapter will be focusing on the Healthy Forest and Electrification and Efficiency policy initiatives.

Every month we are helping reach our elected representatives by making and logging calls for CCL. Join us in this quick and easy climate action as the Monthly Calling Campaign transitions to the Climate Action Program. Sign up for text alerts to call or send an email to your members of Congress (MOCs). Use this link to receive reminders (about once a month) with a script strategically timed to bill movement in Congress: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/text-alerts/>. When you sign up, you will be asked to call your representatives each month and be given a script and directions. Become part of the solution!

The Inflation Reduction Act continues to be in the news! The IRA will reduce carbon emissions roughly 40% while creating more than nine million good paying jobs. Find out more at [citizensclimatelobby.org](https://citizensclimatelobby.org) under Group Discussion Topic - CCL Community.

A member of McHenry County CCL Chapter, Don Wilkin, has brought us news of Agro Farming. Don is currently building a relationship with the Savanna Institute of Agroforestry. Agro farming encourages carbon capturing in farming. This is a highly successful way to recapture and reduce greenhouse gasses. Find out more at: <https://www.savannainstitute.org/demonstration-farms/>.

The IL McHenry County CCL Chapter meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month from 6:30-7:30PM. Email [tpdieckhoff@ameritech.net](mailto:tpdieckhoff@ameritech.net) for more information and directions to the meeting. Our Facebook page has important updates and information specifically for McHenry County. Find it by searching for Citizens Climate Lobby- McHenry County or at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/276199626119190/>

Can't wait to see you at the meeting! A Zoom call is scheduled for March. Starting April 6, meetings will be hybrid (in person at Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church and via Zoom).

### Clean-up of Boone Creek

Saturday, May 13

9-11am



**THE TEAM REMOVED OVER 300 LBS OF TRASH & 11 LBS OF RECYCLABLES IN 2020!**

On Saturday, May 13th, Defenders' members are invited by our Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team and the Boone Dutch Creek Watershed Alliance to help clean up the branch of Boone Creek that runs through the City of McHenry. This event will begin at 9am and we plan to be done by 11am.

Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and boots and to park in the Public Works parking lot at 1415 Industrial Drive in McHenry. All necessary equipment and supplies and snacks will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. If you have any questions about this event, please call Nancy at 815-356-1710. Many hands make light work! So, please invite a friend and come help us make a positive difference in our environment and enjoy some time outdoors!

# Earth Day Celebration

## Saturday, April 22

### Noon – 4:00 p.m.

**Prairieview Education Center  
2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake**

**Spend the afternoon with us!**  
**Explore Earth Friendly Activity & Craft Stations**  
Make a T-shirt bag, Plant Seeds, Play Migration Tag & More!  
**Guided Hikes** 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
**Puppet Shows** 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
**Bring a Picnic Lunch**

Save  
THE  
Date



### USED BOOK SALE

September 23 - October 7, 2023

Located at the  
**Algonquin Township Road District**  
3702 U.S. Highway 14  
Crystal Lake, 60014

More details to come closer to the date

CO-  
SPONSORED  
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*McHenry County*  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**environmental  
DEFENDERS**  
of McHenry County

## 2023 Recycling Events

April 15 - Milkway Park, Harvard  
May 13 - Chesak Elementary School, Lake in the Hills  
September 23 - McHenry County College  
October 14 - McHenry County Department of Health  
Paper Tiger Document Shredding will be at all events,  
in addition to special paper shredding and household  
hazardous waste collection dates throughout the year

### DEFENDERS' STAFF

Carolyn Bendel, *Executive Director*  
Destiny Seaton, *Communication & Membership Specialist*  
Pam Johnson, *Manager, The Green Read and The Green Spot*  
Diane Greenman, *Assistant Manager, The Green Read and The Green Spot*  
Ingrid Butauskas, *Bookkeeper*

### DEFENDERS' OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Kim Hankins, *President*  
Jessica Beverly, *1st Vice President*  
Lori McConville, *2nd Vice President*  
Carl Edstrom, *Treasurer*  
Bev Dow, *Secretary*  
Zak Dolezal  
Rico Rotta  
Ken Santowski  
Ashley Lange

### ABOUT EARTHCONNECT NEWSLETTER

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815-338-0393  
[www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

## April

**TUES 11 | America the Beautiful Update- Efforts to Restore, Connect and Conserve 30% of Lands and Waters by 2030**

**Co-sponsored by Illinois Environmental Council**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

MCC Shah Center, McHenry

**SAT 15 | McHenry County Recycling Drive**

9am - noon

Milkway Park, Harvard

**SAT 15 | Gardenfest**

7:30am - 4pm

McHenry County College

**SAT 22 | Earth Day Celebration**

Noon - 4pm

Prairie View Education Center, Crystal Lake

## May

**SAT 13 | McHenry County Recycling Drive**

9am - noon

Chesak Elementary School, Lake in the Hills

**SAT 13 | McHenry County Recycling Drive**

9am - 11am

1415 Industrial Dr., McHenry

## June

**THURS 8 - SAT 10 | Use it Again Garage Sale**

9am - 4pm

Algonquin Township Road District Garage B

**SAT 24 | Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

9am - noon

TBD

## 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

**SECOND SAT OF EVERY MONTH | Restoration Work Day**

9am - 11am

Locations TBA, stay tuned to eNews

**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

Non Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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Permit no. 84

McHenry, IL

60098



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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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