



## MEET ERIN KENNEDY, OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Hello, Defenders! My name is Erin Kennedy, and I am so excited to have joined the Defenders as the new Executive Director. I first learned about The Defenders in 2017 visiting the Pioneer Tree Farm to purchase my Christmas Tree, which has become an annual tradition for me. I recently became a member of the Waste Reduction Action Team. I moved to Algonquin in 2020 with my partner of 18 years, David and my dog, Adeline.

Some of my earliest memories as a kid were spending Saturday mornings with my Dad dropping off our newspapers and scrap metal to be recycled before curbside recycling was available. From an early age I was taught our natural resources have value and we need to do our part to protect and preserve them for future generations. I grew up in DuPage County, and have fallen in love with the dynamic landscapes McHenry County has to offer. Some of my favorite things to do are explore Illinois' natural areas and visit new places in McHenry County. I also enjoy cooking and am an avid gardener.

I went to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and graduated with a double major in Environmental Studies & Comparative Religion with a minor in Philosophy. Michigan is my second home, and will always hold a special place in my heart. (Cont.)



*Left: Erin tables at Woodstock Pride with fellow Waste Reduction Team Members Ashley Lange, Michelle Muryn and Cecilia Carman*

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## MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT.

I have thirteen years of experience in the environmental non-profit world facilitating environmental programs and presentations as well as coordinating community recycling, composting and reuse events. I'm also accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council as a Green Associate since 2012. I am passionate about helping my community and assisting residents to become better environmental stewards. I love finding or developing new programs to divert more materials from going to landfills through reuse, composting and recycling opportunities. I believe people want to do the right thing when it comes to the environment, they often just get overwhelmed or are in need of the right information. That's where the Defenders play such an important role in our community.

I look forward to working with, and meeting you in the future. I very much appreciate the opportunity to be a part of an organization with a history and reputation like the Defenders.

## The Race is Not Over!

BY CECILIA CARMAN, CO-CHAIR OF WASTE REDUCTION TEAM

At a Waste Reduction meeting last winter Zak Dolezal, owner of Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, was frustrated he had the only restaurant that composted in McHenry County. That frustration turned into action. He was able to receive funding from EcoProducts and a commitment from WasteNot Composting to begin a pilot program here in McHenry County. We just needed 10 places to commit.

Our team got our boots on the ground and visited, emailed, direct messaged and called any restaurant that showed interest. The task seemed unattainable, but we pulled a win at the last minute. Our goal was not just to get restaurants involved but the community as well, so our social media campaign began.

Ashley Lange took the lead and initiated a social media blitz to promote and advertise the campaign. The community learned they could show their appreciation by being patrons and in turn they were entered into our raffle. We want to thank all the restaurants who participated: Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, Cantina 52, Crystal Lake Route 14 Dunkin Donuts, Julie Ann's Frozen Custard, Hickory Hall in Crystal Lake, McHenry County College, Crystal Lake Brewery, Conscious Cup, Aroma Café, Vine and Plate, Cafe Olympic and Uprising Cafe. These restaurants diverted 4,811 pounds of food from our landfills and we in turn gave them over \$6,000 in sales. Thank you everyone who helped to make this a success. The Defenders demonstrated we will support anyone working towards more sustainable practices.

We are so proud of what we have done, but it is not over. We are not stopping here, as there is more waste than just food waste. Stay tuned for more, as the race has just begun!

**MCHENRY COUNTY PROGRAM**

**WASTENOT COMPOST**

**4,811 Pounds Diverted**  
This is the total weight we have collected from you so far.

**116 Gallons**  
The number of gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill using our fleet of electric vehicles.

**2,963 Miles**  
Your composting efforts are equivalent to not driving this many miles.

Statistics based on CO<sub>2</sub>E (Carbon Equivalency) to translate abstract measurements into concrete terms.

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

**environmental DEFENDERS of McHenry County**

**THANK YOU**

## KICK OFF OF INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS ON CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVES FOR MCHENRY COUNTY RESIDENTS

BY KAINA GONZALEZ, CONTRACTED EMPLOYEE

A few weeks ago, the Environmental Defenders launched the first of many informational sessions to come for McHenry County residents on the various ways residents can take advantage of federal, state and utility incentives that provide funding, rebates and tax credits for becoming more energy efficient and electrifying homes and buildings. Thanks to a community development block grant from the McHenry County Community Development Division, residents gathered at Stage Left in the Woodstock Square to hear from Marina Minic from the Citizens Utility Board who discussed opportunities available to governmental bodies and businesses (right).



Did you know that fossil fuels in buildings account for 22% of IL carbon emissions? In addition, Mike Zanello, from Citizens' Climate Lobby focused on opportunities for homeowners such as upfront discounts and tax credits on basic weatherization, switching to an electric induction stove and more. Co-group leaders of the McHenry County Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby also shared a call to action where local government leaders can pledge to start electrifying our county at <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/local-government-leaders-pledge>. Lastly, the project architect of the Old Courthouse Restoration Project in Woodstock showed a virtual tour of the geothermal heat pump installation in the Old Courthouse. Installation of the geothermal heat pump is just one of many examples in which funding and incentives available through the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and the federal Inflation Reduction Act can be used to become more energy efficient.

To stay up to date on upcoming informational sessions, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5dsn4xy>

For resources on this topic, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/39cbh9z4>

## Congratulations to Our 2023 Scholarship Winners!

BY DESTINY SEATON, COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST



We are thrilled to announce and introduce our 2023 Environmental Scholarship recipients: Isabelle Gregory and Emma Rios. Isabelle is a graduate of Prairie Ridge High School and plans to pursue a major in environmental science. While at Prairie Ridge, Isabelle served as one of the presidents of their Environmental Club where she helped establish a student-run recycling initiative. She also interned for the Environmental Defenders and hopes to use her education and experience to initiate community environmental outreach. Emma is a graduate of McHenry Community High School and intends to obtain a degree in biological sciences. While in high school, Emma participated in Youth Conservation Corps and fell in love with nature at Boy Scout Camp. She hopes to one day work outdoors to protect plants and animals while living a zero-waste lifestyle. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to our team of application reviewers: Kim Compton, Bev Dow, Leslie Krebs and Bill Kreznor.

Left: Kim Compton presents Emma Rios with her scholarship check  
Right: Isabelle Gregory shows off her scholarship check

## McHenry County Schools' Waste Report Card

BY CECILIA CARMAN, CO-CHAIR OF WASTE REDUCTION TEAM

Our schools are getting higher scores on their composting grades. Many strides have been made and the goal to have zero waste lunch rooms is in sight.

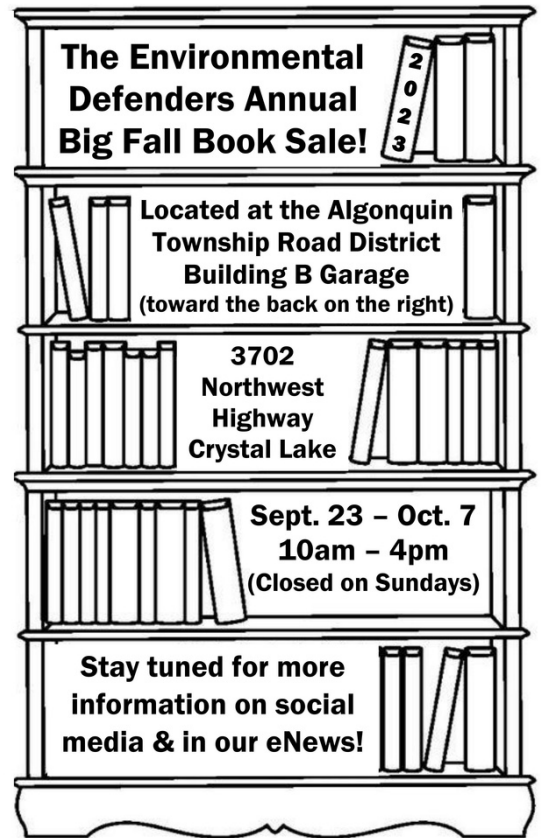
Huntley School District had three schools participate in food waste audits with Seven Generations Ahead. The Waste Reduction Team was involved in the planning and implementation of one of the schools, Heineman Middle School. We got there early, set up stations for landfill, compost, recycling and shared tables. The students were coached on how to separate their waste, and their eyes were opened! In their words "We are mortified on how much we waste!" A total of 71 pounds of waste was collected, with 23 pounds each to the landfill and compost. A record amount of 14 pounds of liquid waste was produced as well. A survey was done, and students asked for more education on reducing waste and suggested small prizes would motivate them to do more. The school district is committed to composting and producing less packaging waste next year, and we are excited to support them on their zero waste journey.

Our amazing member, Kari Gassman, was fueled that day to have one done in Crystal Lake School District before the end of the school year. With one week of school left, she made it happen. Kari created her own bins and, with help from our team members, got it done.

Hannah Beardsley Middle School had a lunch waste audit May 24th and had 900 students participate. In one day they collected 72 pounds of waste: 12 pounds was recyclable, 26 pounds compostable and 33 pounds went to the landfill. The school has tried to reduce their waste by implementing an "offer vs. serve" policy and are excited to implement a share table as well. With these practices, children are only given food they ask to be placed on their tray and anything not eaten can be donated to the food pantry. The school is not stopping there; they hope to find a solution for their on-site composting bins in their outdoor space. With Defenders like Kari who can keep them accountable, the sky's the limit!

We can all make small steps that can lead to big changes. We need to be persistent and raise our hands when help is needed and never feel your goals are too big or unattainable. You just need a few others with the same passion and willingness to step up and show up.

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***



**Welcome New Defenders' Members!**  
Bob & Ann Romadka- Wonder Lake  
Sheelagh Cooke- Trout Valley  
Wendy Bianchi- Crystal Lake  
Starbell Hatchery- Harvard  
Denise Hammer- Fox River Grove  
Abigail Daman- Crystal Lake  
Ashley Brey- Lake in the Hills  
AMS Store & Shred LLC- Lake in the Hills  
Jayne Emma-Perry



The Monarch Coalition is bringing to the beach an engaging Monarch Fair loaded with activities, games and monarch education. Migrate to the beach for the afternoon to enjoy Monarch Mania and learn all about Monarchs. Enjoy a Monarch extravaganza with butterfly and pollinator plants information, face painting, science table activities, art activities, a big migration route map, information on how Mexico, Canada and USA are collaborating! There will be pollinator plants available for you to purchase from participating nurseries. Wander to the band shell where local bands will be showcased for your entertainment.

# UPDATE FROM MCSEEP

BY PAMELA DUNCAN KING, DIRECTOR OF MCSEEP

Welcome to the summer! McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program had a great year. This year, Environmental Educators Hannah Pfaff, Gigi Carlson, Jodi Stone and Andy Long brought our lessons to nearly 10,000 students here in McHenry County. Our educators visited 29 different schools in 14 different school districts to impact 448 classrooms. There was also the return of the Youth Groundwater Festival that is hosted by MCSEEP with our partners the McHenry/Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. We had 129 sixth and seventh grade students attend the festival from four different schools.

At this year's Youth Groundwater Festival, there were water-related activities from modeling groundwater and watershed systems, to examining soil, to the effects of groundwater contamination and assessing the health of surface water using macro-invertebrates. Students loved the interactive stations where they directly explored the health of surface and ground water. Shout out to Heineman Middle School who won the Zero Waste Lunch Challenge by having less than one item of trash per student! A special thanks to our volunteers from MCSEEP: Jodi Stone, from The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County: Ashley Lange and Shari Chakoian, from Woodstock North High School: Owen Bonnett and Malaika Parpart, and from Friends of the Fox: Jenni Kempf and Rachel Herrick. Thank you also to all who worked at the Festival! From MCSEEP: Gigi Carlson, Andy Long and Hannah Pfaff, from McHenry/Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District: Spring Duffey, Bob Oja and Ryan Bieber, from Resource Environmental Solutions: Caitlin Burke, and from McHenry County Department of Planning and Development: Scott Kuykendall.

This summer we are also revamping our 7th grade curriculum on climate change to make the lesson more current and interactive. We are continuing to improve our curriculum based upon teacher, student and MCSEEP educator feedback.

As we continue rebuilding after the pandemic, we would love for you to follow us on Facebook! We are listed as the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program. This summer we will be posting fun Environmental Science activities to do with young people at home!



## THANKS AND GOOD LUCK, KAINA!

BY NANCY SCHIETZELT, VOLUNTEER

We're sending Kaina Gonzalez off to her new job in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with many thanks and best wishes! Kaina has worked with the Defenders over the past year as part of our Conversación de Conservación collaboration and as a contractor preparing all our outreach materials for our Community Development Block Grant project to inform McHenry County residents of options for increasing energy efficiency. She will soon be driving north to begin her job as a Biologist in the Fisheries Division of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service through their Recent Graduate Pathway Program. We'll miss her, but we wish her the best in her career!

## SHE'S NOT DONE YET! THANK YOU, NANCY SCHIETZELT

BY LORI MCCONVILLE, BOARD 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy came to McHenry County already a dedicated naturalist and environmental steward, and we are glad she brought her talents and passion to the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County.

She joined the Defenders in 1992 and soon became a board member. In 2008 she was elected president and served in that role for nine years until March 2017. This past March she stepped down from the board, but she's still staying very active within the Defenders.



In 2008 and before, the organization was taking a downward dip. Nancy saw this and as good leaders do, she set goals to keep the Defenders viable until change would sway us back to a stronger position. She started with some new board members, building a team. Next, she took on the role of executive director, promoting the organization as she worked on committees, and keeping a sharp eye on the finances. As president, her goals were to rewrite our mission, put together a strong strategic plan and hire an executive director. It was her leadership and commitment that pushed us back to a strong, influential organization that can meet its mission of preserving, protecting and educating citizens about the beauty and importance of a healthy environment.

Nancy didn't come to the Defenders with passion and commitment alone. She grew up on a farm in Iowa. After teaching there and in Louisiana, and after serving as City Clerk in Ames, Iowa for 9 years, she moved to Illinois where she landed a job at Cary Junior High teaching science, organizing the annual science fair and leading the Junior High Science Club.

In between volunteering for Volo Bog and The Land Conservancy, she made her way to us and has worked tirelessly on committees and action teams over the years, building our membership, creating collaborative relationships with local leaders and other environmental organizations. Some highlights include representing the Defenders on the Regional Planning Commission that developed the McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2010.

She lobbied the county to adopt regulations that require all solar farms be planted with native prairie plants and was a key organizer of the 2019 workshop the Defenders hosted that brought solar developers together with experts in the field of native plantings.

She worked to obtain grants for projects so that we could have revenue from a variety of sources beyond fundraising, including investments. This would enable us to eventually hire a full-time executive director and supportive staff. On the Fundraising Team she provides valuable input on activities, volunteering her time to set up and table and getting others to help out. She is a pro at organizing volunteers, and she has been leaned on many times to get things moving, whether it be getting volunteers to table at an event or board members to take action.

Nancy met her goals as a president and went above and beyond in her role as a leader. But in all good work, there comes a time to conclude and let others lead. And so we honor Nancy's time as our board president and celebrate the many achievements of her efforts. A big, "Thank You," to Nancy. Your work is appreciated, and we're glad you'll still be around advocating for clean water, inspiring interns, looking out for our money and pulling invasives from big and small prairies.



### 2023 Boone Creek Clean Up

On May 11th this crew removed 70 pounds of trash and 8 pounds of recyclables from the banks of Boone Creek in McHenry during our annual stream cleanup with the Boone and Dutch Creek Watersheds Coalition. They even pulled one shopping cart out of the creek! It feels so good to know that all of those materials will never find their way into the Fox River!

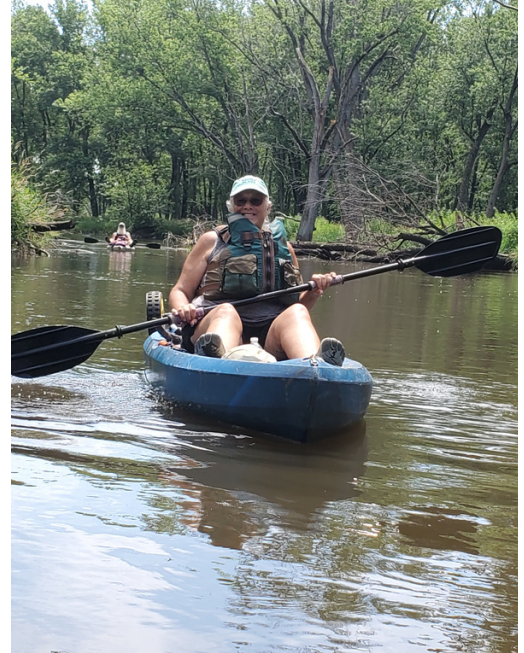
# Paddle the Kish in Marengo Progress

BY PAT LAWLOR, DIRECTOR OF PADDLE THE KISH

Now that it's summer, it's time to grab that kayak or canoe and check out the Kish. Although the river runs 14 miles through McHenry County, only some of the river is paddle-able. The volunteers hope to open the last bit up this summer. The most accurate info is on our Facebook page: Paddle the Kish in Marengo. We also have a website and YouTube channel of the same name.

On the McHenry County portion of the Kish, a smaller 6-10 feet boat is preferable due to the many switchbacks and narrow passages. Siems Park on Highbridge Rd is the uppermost section that is cleared. The route from Siems to Hwy 23 should be cleared of treefalls, unless there has been a big storm recently.

As for the launches, Siems Park is open sunrise to sunset. The gates are locked nightly, so don't leave your car there too late. For Millstream Rd go under the bridge and take out / put in on the south side. Don't park on any bridge, there is a wide shoulder on the southwest side of the bridge where you can park. On Deerpass Rd turn left at the fork, and there is a canal on the southeast side of the bridge along the road for easy access. Again, no parking on any bridge. If you are paddling through, make a right turn and go under the north bridge for easier paddling.



Woodbine Launch has about 75 feet of bank for access. Look to your left as you approach and use the backwater out of the current for access. No vehicles are allowed beyond the boat drop off. It is a 300 foot walk back to the boat drop off turn around. Hwy 23 is on the City of Marengo water treatment site. Exit before the bridge and walk outside the fence along Hwy 23. Parking is available outside the fence to the left of the driveway, by the No Littering sign. Don't block the driveway.

DON'T PADDLE West of Hwy 23 to Thorne Rd. There are more than 20 treefalls that need to be removed during summer 2023 with no way out from Thorne Rd. on the northwest side of the bridge. There is an MCCD parking lot about a block north where you can park also. The paddle west of Thorne Rd is open and lovely. County Line Rd launch is through a pond to your right after you go under the bridge. It is about a block or so across the pond, so don't lose hope. The launch is on the west side of County Line Rd and parking is on the east side. In the summer MCCD usually installs a porta potty.

Boone County usually does a good job of keeping the Kish open for paddling. Don't park at Epworth Rd, since the resident there has the police tow any parked cars after 30 minutes. After the Red Horse Bend Launch the Kish gets considerably wider, so that a boat of 10 feet or longer is preferable.

Feel free to contact Pat Lawlor any time for up to date info. patlawlor117@gmail.com 815-715-0592. Happy and SAFE paddling!



## Mark your calendars for Soul Jam 2023 hosted by Soulful Prairies!

Saturday, September 9th, 1:30 PM - Sunset

4706 Alden Rd | Woodstock IL 60098

A day of good music, good people and always supporting a good cause. McHenry County Conservation District, Environmental Defenders and Good Food Pantry couldn't be happier to be a recipient of this event.

Use code MCHENRY when purchasing tickets. Have more questions? Visit Soulful Prairies' website: <https://www.soulfulprairies.com/events/2023-soul-jam>

## Thank You, Alice Lumsden!

BY CARL EDSTROM, BOARD TREASURER

Alice Lumsden recently completed her term as a board member in March of this year, and it's a pleasure to thank her for all she has done for the organization. Alice and her husband Rance joined the Defenders in 1987 and have both been active members for many years - notably, for one thing, sharing responsibility for the active management of the Styrofoam collection location in Woodstock, but also for just generally jumping in to help out whenever a call went out for Defenders volunteers, no matter what was needed. They were both active members with the Woodstock Area Recyclers in the mid-1980's, where they worked monthly recycling drives before curbside recycling was available.

Alice has been a long-time member of the Fundraising Team, and was absolutely instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Green Spot, where she effectively volunteered to serve as the manager and volunteer staffing coordinator for ten years. The dedication she (and many others) have shown to that once modest little used bookstore created a constant presence and reminder of our mission in the county and, along with the Green Read, continues to set an example for the benefits of re-using our resources while simultaneously raising money to support our causes.

Alice joined the board in 2011, and became the treasurer in 2018. On the board, she has always maintained a presence, showed up for our meetings well-prepared, and consistently offered a thoughtful point of view. As treasurer, Alice brought her professional background, attention to detail and commitment to protecting our assets through moral, ethical and prudent financial decision-making. She put in countless hours to ensure that our financial reporting was always consistent and accurate, which was no small feat as we changed staff members and systems over time. We'd also like to thank Alice for the time, commitment, and reminders she continued to offer as we transitioned responsibilities to a new treasurer and bookkeepers within the past year.

Even as Alice leaves the board, we appreciate the fact that she continues to actively participate in our financial oversight as a member of the Finance Committee, because she always shows up for a meeting with an observation or challenging (but completely fair) question about the purpose of an expense, or the way we have classified it on the books. That dedication to detail is essential to our success as an organization. Thank you for your contributions to the board and the Defenders, Alice. We all look forward to your continued involvement!



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

**When:** Saturday, August 12, 9AM

**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:** Cornish Park, Algonquin to Voyageur Landing, Elgin – about a nine-mile journey.

**Pricing:** Single Sit in & Sit On Kayaks are \$50.00, Tandem Sit On Kayaks are \$70.00, Personal Kayak Shuttle is \$15.00

**SIGN UP at <https://tinyurl.com/ycy3epd6> or call 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. It will be an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful Fox River and its abundant bird life, plus local river experts will join us and educate as we paddle. There is one portage at the Carpentersville dam, which is scheduled for removal. You'll also have the opportunity to learn about the recent and significant designation of the Fox River as a National Recreation Trail! Karen Ann Miller, Executive Planner, Planning Division, Kane County Development & Community Services Department, will be joining us on the paddle trip and give a talk at the portage at the Carpentersville dam to share all that it took to gain this designation. We'll stop for lunch at Rosie O'Hares in East Dundee right along the river. Expect a full day for this adventure. Questions? Contact trip guide, Cynthia Kanner, at [cynthkanner@gmail.com](mailto:cynthkanner@gmail.com).







The Corn Roast is on, and the date is TBD! Stay tuned to our eNews and social media for the date, time and how to volunteer at our 2023 Members' Corn Roast! As always, it will be hosted by the lovely Howensteines at the Pioneer Tree Farm in Harvard.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Please consider volunteering at our display in Building C at the County Fair Tuesday, August 1- Sunday, August 6

Contact Pat Lawlor: [patlawlor117@gmail.com](mailto:patlawlor117@gmail.com) or sign up at <https://signup.com/go/UzxyAhQ>



Save the date for northern IL's biggest and best green expo! This will be the last one until 2025 so please plan to join us!

2023 Green Living Expo is November 4, 2023, 10am-3pm

To find out more and to register as a vendor or exhibitor, please go to: [www.mchenry.edu/greenexpo](http://www.mchenry.edu/greenexpo)  
Questions or ideas? Please email Kim at [Khankins@mchenry.edu](mailto:Khankins@mchenry.edu)

## Welcome Ashley Lange, Defenders' Newest Board Member!



A recent resident of McHenry county, Ashley became a Defenders member after moving to Lake in the Hills in 2018, and has since spent much of her free time on various Defenders endeavors such as the Waste Reduction Team, Recycling Team, Outreach Team and volunteering at the Green Read. Ashley has been a lifelong environmental advocate. After joining Earth Club for something to do after school in the 6th grade, the impact of the club stuck with her. Now working in the manufacturing industry for the last 15 years at a small, family-owned business, Ashley has been able to make sustainable changes in an atmosphere that is not traditionally seen as environmentally friendly. She loves sharing knowledge with people around her to help them make small, simple changes that reduce their impact on the planet. Her advocacy doesn't end with the environment. Other areas Ashley spends her time on include military veteran welfare, food insecurity, animal welfare and homelessness. She also serves on the executive board of the Battle Betties NFP. Her number one goal in life is to leave the world better than she found it.

## Annual Bike Ride

Sunday, September 24  
Meet at Town Park, Algonquin  
1PM

Join the Environmental Defenders' Transportation Action Team on a scenic bike ride Sunday, September 24 starting at Towne Park, Algonquin at 1PM, and looping through Lake in the Hills and Crystal Lake before returning to Algonquin for a taste of local beer at Scorched Earth Brewery. The route, including the relatively new Randall Road underpass, is 15 miles long, but shorter (7, 8, 11 mile) options are possible along portions of the loop.



## BOOKSTORE NEWS

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

On May 17th volunteers from both stores and Defenders' board members gathered at Woodscreek Park in Crystal Lake for a potluck picnic and mini meeting. An abundance of tasty food, good conversation and baggo games made for a fun event - even though it was a bit windy and chilly that day. The volunteers participated in a "Book Condition Quiz" in which they had to decide where the sample books belonged: on the bookstores shelves, in the Clearance Corner or in recycling boxes for transport to the Woodstock Library bins. Each book was then reviewed and if it was destined for the Clearance Corner or needed recycling, an explanation was given for the reason the book should be rejected for the bookstore shelves.

Our volunteers are the heart of our bookstores, and an enormous "THANK YOU!" goes out to each and every one of them. Their care, friendliness and dedication are what make the stores so pleasant and inviting, something we hear from customers again and again! We are hoping to find a few more volunteers to fill in some gaps in The Green Spot schedule. Summer is a great time to join our team! Contact [thegreenreadbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenreadbookstore@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out at the Woodstock store.

After a busy spring, we're ready for an even busier summer! Just a few of the events happening in Downtown Crystal Lake and on the Woodstock Square that the bookstores are going to be involved in or influenced by include:

- Farmers Markets: Woodstock Square on Tuesdays and Saturdays, Crystal Lake at Depot Park on Saturday
- June is Pride month: Woodstock Pride Fest was held Saturday, June 10 – Sunday, June 11. A Downtown Crystal Lake Pride pin was provided for volunteers at the Green Read to wear if they wanted. Both stores were given a rainbow theme for the month of June.
- Pedalpalooza: The Green Read & The Green Spot participated again in this special event utilizing McHenry County's bike trail system. Pedalpalooza-ers were encouraged (but not required) to bike to participating restaurants, shops, breweries, & boutiques that offered cyclists a special discount, offer or entry for a raffle prize. Proceeds stay in McHenry County to provide healthcare to the uninsured men & women of our area.
- Downtown Crystal Lake Sidewalk sales: Thursday, July 13 - Sunday, July 16. Find a bargain or two at The Green Read on those days.
- Woodstock Square Car Show on the Square: Saturday, August 19, time is TBD
- Woodstock Square Mexican Independence Day Celebration: September 17, time is TBD
- Downtown Crystal Lake Johnny Appleseed Festival: Saturday, September 30, 9am - 4pm

When you are looking for something to do, either for yourself or your kids, consider stopping by our bookstores and picking out a gently used book or puzzle. Follow our bookstores' Facebook pages for entertaining and educational posts, as well as to keep up-to-date on what is happening at the stores. You can find links to the pages on the Defenders' website at <https://mcdef.org/bookstores/>. Hope to see you soon!



## INTRODUCING OUR 2023 SUMMER INTERNS

The Water and Natural Resources Action Team are happy to introduce our two summer interns, Gena Denkov and Mills Guanci. Mills has an Associate Degree from McHenry County College and is now a student at Carthage College majoring in environmental science and political science. Gena is transferring from McHenry County College in the fall to Southern Illinois University to obtain a degree in environmental science. They will be helping with habitat restoration at our prairie sites; sharing environmental protection information at several events including the Pollinator Safari, the County Fair and Monarch Family Fest; and updating and adding to our environmental information pages on the Defenders' website. They'll also be taking part in several fun learning events throughout the summer such as mussel and water sampling, butterfly monitoring and bird walks.

The Waste Reduction Action Team is also thrilled to be hosting two summer interns this year, 2022 scholarship winners Emma Kropke and Jon Cian Gross. Emma attends the University of Miami where she majors in marine biology and ecology with a minor in environmental policy and science. Jon Cian attends Notre Dame where he majors in environmental engineering. They will be assisting the Waste Reduction Team in getting more businesses in McHenry County to sign up for commercial composting, working on plastic reduction projects, starting a community refrigerator site with the Youth and Family Center of McHenry County and spreading the word about the Defenders' work at events such as Woodstock Pride Fest and the County Fair. We're so happy to have them working with us this summer!



*Water and Natural Resources interns Gena Denkov (left) and Mills Guanci (right)*



*Waste Reduction interns table at Woodstock Pride with the Waste Reduction Team. Left to right: Annette Parrent, Ashley Lange, Cecilia Carman, Intern Jon Cian Gross, Michelle Muryn, Kim Hankins and Intern Emma Kropke*

### DEFENDERS' STAFF

**Erin Kennedy, 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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The Woodstock Square Mall  
815-338-0393  
www.mcdef.org

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

## July

### Sat 22 | Document Shredding Event

9am - noon

McHenry County Dept of Health, Woodstock

### FRI 28 | BMP Talk: School Pollinator Gardens

1pm - 3pm

Johnsburg Junior High School, Johnsburg

## August

### TUES 1 - SUN 6 | McHenry County Fair

Woodstock

### FRI 4 | BMP Talk: Green Infrastructure for Flood Mitigation

1-3pm

Crystal Lake City Hall, Crystal Lake

### SAT 12 | Float the Fox

9am

Voyageur Landing Forest Preserve, Elgin

### SUN 13 | Monarchs & Music

12:30pm-4:30pm

Main Beach, Crystal Lake

### Sat 12 | Document Shredding Event

9am - noon

McHenry County Dept of Health, Woodstock

## September

### Sat 9 | Soul Jam

1:30pm - sunset

Soulful Prairies, 4706 Alden Rd, Woodstock

### FRI 22 | BMP Talk: Salt Smart Practices

Ringers Landscaping, Crystal Lake

### SAT 23 | McHenry County Recycling Drive

9am - noon

McHenry County College, Crystal Lake

### SAT 23 - SAT OCT 7 | Fall Book Sale

Algonquin Township Road District Garage B

3702 Hwy 14, 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 for Zoom

Socializing begins at 5pm, presentation begins at 6pm

### 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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