

VOL. 19 ISSUE 2 · SPRING 2024

# EARTHCONNECT



Quarterly Newsletter of the Environmental Defenders  
of McHenry County

## 2024 ANNUAL DINNER

BY DESTINY SEATON, COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST

The Defenders once again shared a pleasant evening together on March 3 for the 2024 Annual Dinner and Meeting. For the second year in a row, we decided to change things up and found a new venue at which to gather: 31 North in McHenry. Around 150 people attended.

This year we opted to extend the event and start it an hour earlier. This allowed for ample time to enjoy the cocktail hour, browse the bag raffle items, view our slideshow of photos from the year as well as a remembrance of Alice Howenstine and of course dig into the family-style dinner before the presentations began.

As always, our Fundraising Action Team (pictured below) worked incredibly hard to put together the online silent auction and the in-person bag raffle. We received more donations for the auction than ever this year and had an in-person houseplant sale at the venue. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who undertake the colossal task of organizing the auction and bag raffle, everyone who donated to the auction and of course to all who bid on items! (Cont. on PG 6)



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## An update from your executive director, Erin Kennedy

Hello Defenders! I want to thank everyone that attended, sponsored, donated, volunteered and helped get the word out about our Annual Meeting. It was that support that contributed to the success of the event. Instead of having a keynote speaker this year we were able to hear about the incredible work of our action teams, and received updates from our partner organizations MCSEEP and Paddle the Kish in Marengo on their important work. I don't know about you, but I left the Annual Meeting incredibly proud of the work of the organization and excited about the plans highlighted for 2024. This was my first Annual Meeting, but I understand the importance of it. I think it is so necessary for our membership to come together and share in our successes from the previous year. I only wish we were able to do it more often. The dedication and passion for the organization is truly remarkable and speaks to why the Defenders have been around for so long. The Annual Meeting is also a reminder that spring is just around the corner.

As the weather begins to change and we enjoy Earth Month, I encourage everyone to take a moment and really appreciate all the natural world has to offer in McHenry County. Visit your favorite forest preserve, nature preserve or conservation area. Take the opportunity to discover a new favorite or finally visit that place you have been meaning to go to, but just haven't had the chance. The more time we spend connecting to nature the better. I am a firm believer in Dr. E.O. Wilson's concept of biophilia: humans have an innate connection to the environment, and the more we foster that connection the better it is for ourselves and our community. I hope to see you all in the outdoors. Happy Spring!



## A FUN NEW OPEN HOUSE EXPERIENCE

On February 6 Defenders members gathered at Warp Corps in Woodstock for a new Open House experience. We invited the community to join us in learning about the missions of the Defenders and Warp Corps, a fellow local nonprofit with a mission to prevent substance abuse and homelessness through engagement. Americana Chronicles with Joe Fisher and Tom Ellinghausen played music for us, Antioch Pizza gave us a generous discount so we could provide pizza and we had vegetarian food from Expressly Leslie's. Many members also brought thrifted or reused clothing to have printed with the Defenders' logo! We hope to be able to partner with Warp Corps and more local nonprofits for events similar to this in the future. Thank you to all who joined us, Warp Corps for hosting us and all of the amazing volunteers who made the event possible.

## SPRING MEANS COMPOSTING

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

As we all prepare to spring clean our yards, it is also time to prepare the compost bins. Many of you may already do backyard composting, but for those who don't or want to know how to encourage your neighbors to compost, let's start with the basics.

First of all, you might think you need to do curbside composting. With a little investigation and a little push from the Waste Reduction Team, we have discovered that most of the haulers in McHenry County will allow you to put organics in your yard waste. The yard waste must be in a garbage can, not a paper bag. MDC and LRS are accepting vegetable and fruit scraps. Your hauler will take the yard waste every week; there's no worry about balance because there is no monitoring of the amount of yard material in your food scraps. This method makes it easy to introduce people to composting without the hassle of maintaining a site at their homes.

If you are lucky to have Flood Brothers as your hauler, you can put everything in the yard waste can. Yes, I mean meat, bones, or any other type of food crap you could think of. Don't worry if you or your neighbors are concerned about the smell. Place your yard waste can in the corner each week, and you can always add a little sawdust if you do not have any yard waste material.

Another item to remember to compost is your pizza box. Yes, that greasy side can go right into the compost bin. You can recycle the top or add it to the compost as well. All the haulers still need to take compostable takeout materials. However, they will break down very quickly in backyard compost piles.

If you or your friends still need convincing and wish you could compost all food scraps, we can help. The Waste Reduction Action Team aims to provide composting at one of our local farmers' markets. We are beginning to collaborate with Waste Not Composting to provide this service. Waste Not accepts all food scraps, which will be a great adjunct to the organics-only service from local haulers. Food should not be in our landfills as it produces methane gas and wastes our precious little space. We ask that you use all the composting services available and generate as little food waste as possible. It takes a village, and we are an amazing one.

## BOOKSTORE NEWS

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

Somehow it seems appropriate that I am writing this article about the “Green” bookstores on St. Patrick’s Day! Although it’s only mid-March, it seems like spring has been here for a while already after a short but intense winter.

The New Year began with big excitement for The Green Read when the City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee designated The Green Read as a Green Business. To learn more information about the program, please visit <https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/boards-and-commissions/sustainability-committee/green-business-designation-1179>.

The stores were closed for six days in January due to extreme cold, heavy snowfall and ice. We were fortunate that the extreme weather ended in time to enjoy post-holiday celebrations with our volunteers at both stores on the last two Sundays of the month. We also reinstated the \$10 bag sale at the end of each month at the Clearance Corner. Designed to help sell some of our duplicate books, the “Blind Date with a Book” promotion was a huge hit in February. It proved so popular that additional books had to be wrapped twice! The books were wrapped in white paper and tied with a red ribbon. A “library card” with bullet point descriptions on it but no title and author was attached to each wrapped book.

Also in February was the popular Plant Swap held at The Green Read on February 13. This was organized by Green Read volunteer and Defenders board member Ashley Lange and staff member. It was such a success that hosting another expanded Swap in Woodstock is being considered for a later date. Keep an eye on the eNews, social media and the bookstores’ newsletter for further details.

Another event that the bookstores were involved in was the online auction held by the Fundraising Team. In addition to promoting the auction in the newsletter and with flyers in both stores, The Green Read dedicated one of its front windows to a display of some of the auction items. To help support the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, The Green Read participated in the “Have a Heart” food drive sponsored by Downtown Crystal Lake during Valentine’s Day week.

Starting in March, The Green Spot hours changed to become more consistent. The store is now open Monday - Friday from 10am - 4pm. The Green Read hours did not change. Both book clubs are going strong and 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, books chosen by members). 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!



### THE GREEN READERS BOOK CLUB

## 2024 BOOK SELECTIONS

- January 4: *Japanese Roses* by Theresa Lorella
- February 1: *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger
- March 7: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick
- April 4: Choose your own book: a story set in or about Ireland
- May 2: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge
- June 6: *Strange Sally Diamond* by Liz Nugent
- July 11: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- August 1: Choose your own book: any historical fiction novel
- September 5: *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines
- October 3: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- November 7: *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S. C. Gwynne
- December 5: Readers Choice - each person brings a book to discuss that they've read and would recommend

## YEAR THREE OF BMP TALKS & TOURS SERIES IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

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 are busy planning a third year of Friday BMP Talks and Tours. These events showcase 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 the evolving 2024 schedule will be posted there.

- 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 nature 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 stormwater 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>.



## FEED THE HUNGRY AND SAVE THE PLANET

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

We can find community fridges all over Chicago and Evanston. These are excellent community services where anyone can donate food and access them, as they are open 24 hours a day and available to everyone in the community, with no questions asked. The Waste Reduction Action Team was inspired by this and has received a grant to build a community fridge program here in McHenry County. The goal is to save food from our landfills and help area residents in need.

Due to health department regulations, finding the best partners and building this program from the ground up has been a long process. We've been very lucky that the city of Evanston has been a mentor by sharing its operational procedures and instructional materials. They do not want us to reinvent the wheel and want to be a resource for other community fridge programs.

A lucky coincidence is that the health department is beginning a Farm to Table program and would like to partner with us. This program will be beneficial in ensuring the safety of the food placed in the fridge and that those in need are aware of it. Warp Corps is also interested in hosting a refrigerator and has already established a need; many area restaurants have attempted to donate food to the organization. However, once we have a proper place to store it, this whole food donation process will be simplified. We can make these donations readily available to anyone in need in our community.

We are excited to rescue food and the planet at the same time. Collaboration is the key to any large project; we can guarantee success with these great partners. Please be on the lookout for our fridges, consider donating any unopened items, and, of course, spread the word.



## 2024 Recycling Events

May 11 - Milkway Park, Harvard

June 22 - Chesak Elementary School, Lake in the Hills

July 27 - McHenry County Administration Building, Woodstock

August 24 - McHenry County Administration Building, Woodstock

September 21- McHenry County Administration Building, Woodstock

October 19- McHenry County Administration Building, Woodstock

Paper Tiger Document Shredding will be at all events, in addition to special paper shredding and household hazardous waste collection dates throughout the year

# UPDATE FROM MCSEEP

BY PAMELA DUNCAN KING, DIRECTOR OF MCSEEP

The McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program had a very active winter. From January 1, 2024 to March 22, 2024 we have reached over 3,000 students with our environmental message. This April will be our busiest month since 2019 with only four school days in the month where our Environmental Educators won't be in a classroom. This spring, we are pleased to welcome a new preschool - Bright Beginnings Preschool in McHenry and a new elementary school - Mackeben Elementary School in Lake in the Hills.

We are preparing for our busy April when we will be throughout McHenry County from Lake in the Hills to Huntley to Ringwood and Woodstock. We will be delivering our program from Pre-K to 8th grade during April. In addition we are participating in Earth Day at Prairieview Education Center on Saturday, April 20th from noon to 4 pm. At the MCSEEP exhibit, we will guide families to make a starting composting jar to take home and continue! This activity is based on our 2nd grade curriculum - Dirt Made My Lunch

We are also preparing for the Youth Spring Groundwater Festival - a field experience for 6th grade students from McHenry County schools. This year our groundwater festival will be held at the McHenry County Soil and Water Auxiliary Building in Woodstock on Wednesday, May 15th. We are expecting 125 students from throughout the county from Woodstock, Cary, Alden-Hebron and Marengo. We are still looking for volunteers and sponsors for this event that is free-of-charge to schools.

As we hope to continue to grow in our programs, we are looking for one or two Environmental Educators for the coming school year. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at [mcseepdirector@gmail.com](mailto:mcseepdirector@gmail.com). This year a lot of growth has come from our preschool programs with several schools opting for multiple pre-K programs during a single school year. This is a great way to reach the youngest of our students. Thank you to all our Environmental Educators who have done a fantastic job this year: Hannah Pfaff, Gigi Carlson, and Jodi Stone. You are the reason our mission of Inspiring Awareness to Empower Action succeeds!



**LEFT: 6TH GRADE STUDENTS EXPLORE HOW MACROINVERTEBRATES CAN DETERMINE THE HEALTH OF SURFACE WATER AT THE 2023 GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL.**

**RIGHT: STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT TREES AND HOW PAPER CAN BE RECYCLED.**



**RIGHT: OUR PREK PROGRAM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WORMS IS A FAVORITE OF MANY OF OUR SCHOOLS.**



**RIGHT: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR - JODI STONE - HELPS A VISITOR AT 2023'S EARTH DAY EXPLORE WORMS.**



**LEFT: JIM SZOLOMAYER OF FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL HELPS HIS STUDENTS UNDERSTAND ABOUT GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION DURING THE 2023 GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL.**

## ANNUAL DINNER CONT.

In lieu of a keynote speaker this year, we welcomed Anne Basten, chair of our Fundraising Action Team; Kim Compton, chair of our Outreach Action Team; Barb Day, chair of our Recycling Action Team; Gary Kanner, chair of our Transportation Action Team; Cindy Skrukrud, chair of our Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team; Cecilia Carman and Michelle Muryn, co-chairs of our Waste Reduction Action Team; Pam Johnson, manager of our Green Bookstores; Pam Duncan-King, director of McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program; Pat Lawlor, director of Paddle the Kish and Linda Zumpff with Paddle the Kish to update our membership on all the wonderful things the Defenders were up to in 2023. It was so inspiring to hear about all the hard work our teams have been pouring into the environment in McHenry County.

During the business portion of the dinner, we presented five awards.

The Theta Award, the highest honor we bestow upon an individual or group for outstanding environmental service, was presented to Nancy Schietzelt for serving on the Defenders' Board and as President for over ten years; for years of teaching students in McHenry County the importance of science and conservation; for co-hosting the Defenders' Water and Natural Resources Protection Team interns; for contributing endless volunteer hours to the Defenders, the Land Conservancy, Volo Bog and many other organizations and natural sites; being instrumental in the formation of the County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan; and recruiting hundreds of members to the Defenders.

The Government Award, an award given to a McHenry County governmental group that has made a significant contribution to environmental health in the county in the past year, was presented to the Village of Bull Valley for engaging their community in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, adopting the first Dark Sky Ordinance in our county, and for their leadership in the preservation of the Thompson Road Farm as a 275-acre Bull Valley park that will provide hundreds of acres of new land to be publicly enjoyed.

The Business Award, an award given to a McHenry County business that has gone above and beyond to prioritize environmentally friendly practices within their business, was given to American Ad Bag for supporting the Defenders' efforts to reduce single-use plastic bag usage by donating misprinted and excess bags to our bookstores and other local nonprofits for many years.

Environmental Defenders' Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team was given the Volunteer(s) of the Year Award, an award given to Defenders' members who have made a significant contribution to the good of the organization through their volunteer efforts during the past year, for recruiting 14 governmental bodies to sign onto the National Wildlife Foundation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, the most of any county in IL; for two years of putting on successful Best Management Practices (BMP) Talks and Tours; for receiving a grant and planning several educational presentations on tax credits for being energy efficient; and for donating countless hours of work to make the Defenders' solar project a reality.



Lastly, Isabelle Gregory was given the Young Defender Award, an award given to a young Defenders' member who has contributed most to environmental protection in the county, for her hard work as a 2023 spring micro intern for the Defenders where she enthusiastically interacted with the community at several events including the Earth Day celebration, for volunteering for the Defenders at the County Fair, and for serving as the co-president of the Prairie Ridge High School Environmental Club and starting a recycling initiative that included recycling education.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Also during the business portion of the meeting, we approved the minutes from the 2023 meeting and voted in Kim Compton as our newest board member.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of our 2024 Annual Dinner: Marvin's Toy Store, Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, McHenry County College Sustainability Center, Phil Zack, and Bluestem Ecological Services.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you so much to all of the hardworking and committed volunteers who make our organization and events possible!



Please go to [www.mchenry.edu/green](http://www.mchenry.edu/green) and click on the 2024 Green Guide or scan the QR code below to download a copy.

**Questions?** Call the MCC Sustainability Center at (815) 479-7765 or email [sustainability@mchenry.edu](mailto:sustainability@mchenry.edu)

2024 MCHENRY COUNTY RECYCLING DIRECTORY

## GREEN GUIDE

WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN

**WELCOME TO THE 18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY GREEN GUIDE!**

**Here's what you need to know for 2024:**

- As the year of printing, there are important deadlines and information you need to know to help us create the Green Guide. Please see our "What's New" page for more information.
- Recycling information was recently updated regarding paint collection. Please see full Board member's article on page 17 to learn about the plan for local paint collection services.
- A special section and article is on green jobs at the year. Kelly Long, Please see her insightful article on page 18.
- We are looking for new members to the Prairie Ridge Living Back to Back about the new green program. Email [prairieridge@mchenry.edu](mailto:prairieridge@mchenry.edu) with subject: "New Members".
- The Sustainability Center is seeking for Prairie Ridge this year. Please see our article on page 19 for more information.
- We are always looking for a fun and educational event. Interested in a special event? Contact us at [sustainability@mchenry.edu](mailto:sustainability@mchenry.edu).
- We are still happy to receive input and your group or organization about any sustainability related topics.

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- Recycling Procedures 14
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- Large: Please see her insightful article on page 18
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- We are still happy to receive input and your group or organization about any sustainability related topics.

**COUNTY RECYCLING DATES**

**Households and businesses\***

- July 15 - electronics
- July 22 - electronics and documents
- August 5 - electronics
- October 18 - electronics and documents


**Recycling only†**

- July 22 - electronics only
- August 28 - electronics only

\*Residents on page 28 Back cover

MCC SUSTAINABILITY CENTER  
(815) 479-7765 | ROOM A1335  
[WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN](http://WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN)  
[SUSTAINABILITY@MCHENRY.EDU](mailto:SUSTAINABILITY@MCHENRY.EDU)

McHenry  
County College



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

BY CINDY SKRUKRUD, CHAIR OF WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM

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. Through 2033, federal and state incentives can help homeowners and renters cut their energy footprints and save money.

The Defenders is hosting free informational sessions on the tax credits and rebates available to residents for improving the energy efficiency of their homes and switching their appliances and cars to electricity. Staff from the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) lead the sessions. The next in-person session will be held Tuesday, April 23 from 6 to 7 pm in the Ames Room at the [Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W Paddock St.](#)

Don't have time to make it to an in-person session? No problem, you can view previous sessions on your phone or computer. In just an hour, you'll learn a lot about how to save energy and money! View on Defenders YouTube at:

Sessions in English-

- January 2024 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDqNVe4qA6s>
- March 2024- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N02zFkrpg8c>

Session in Spanish

- January 2024 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_YibW85AoR4&t=62s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YibW85AoR4&t=62s)

To receive email updates on future informational sessions, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/signup4energysavings>

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), federal legislation passed in 2022, and the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), a state act passed in 2021 provide tax credits and rebates are available for energy efficiency and electrification for Illinois residents. 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 like induction stoves, heat pump water heaters and heat pump dryers.

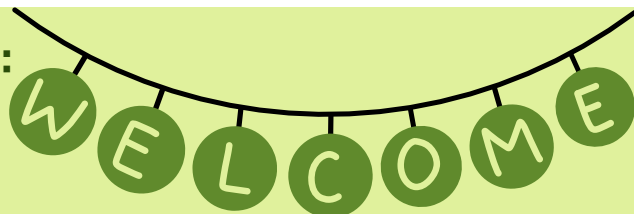
The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is the recipient of a grant from McHenry County's Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program to inform and educate McHenry County residents about the various incentives and rebates they can utilize to improve their energy efficiency and transition to cleaner forms of energy. To learn more, visit the Defenders resources page at <https://tinyurl.com/4energysavings>.

## INTRODUCING DEFENDERS' NEWEST BOARD MEMBER: KIM COMPTON!



Kim has nearly always been an environmentalist. After stints in the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and a private summer camp in Minnesota in her early twenties, she moved to McHenry County to work for the Conservation District. She has been here ever since. She joined the Defenders, the Land Conservancy, and has been a Food Shed Co-op owner since 2014. It has been in the last five years that Kim has gotten more involved with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County.

She joined the Education committee and then became the chair of the Outreach Action Team about 4 or 5 years ago. She is now very excited to be able to serve on the Board of Directors. Kim's hobbies include paddling, traveling with her husband Joe, photography and cuddling with her cats.



### Welcome New Defenders' Members!

**Frank & Jill Mills- Harvard**  
**Mike Shorten- Crystal Lake**  
**Carmen Maso- Morton Grove**  
**Valerie Busch-Zurlent- Richmond**  
**Molly Harrison- Crystal Lake**  
**Stephanie Burk- Fox River Grove**  
**Amy Aponte- McHenry**  
**Jane Jorgensen- Crystal Lake**  
**Kevin & Jennifer Chambers- McHenry**  
**Richard Tobiasz- Spring Grove**  
**Randa McDonald- Crystal Lake**  
**Birdie Heating & Cooling- Lake in the Hills**



## PADDLING SEASON IS HERE!

BY PAT LAWLOR, DIRECTOR OF PADDLE THE KISH

The Kish is ready for your paddling fun! We recommend the short  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile paddle between Woodbine and Hwy 23 for family fun. If you have never paddled on a river before, go with an experienced river paddler. The volunteers will clear any new tree falls as soon as possible in the spring, but you never know when you will find a tree across the entire 30-50 foot expanse of the Kish. This area of the upper Kish is twisty and natural, so a shorter boat (8-12 feet) is more manageable than a longer one. Most of the Kish is usually 2-4 feet deep, but some slow-flowing spots are clogged with farm topsoil, and some other spots used to have a fallen tree, so are dug out to 6-8 feet. The Kish keeps every paddler alert!

The Millstream bridges will be rebuilt this year, so paddling under them might be tricky or impossible. McDOT has delayed this project for a couple of years due to Covid funding, so we are excited to finally see this done. Our Facebook page Paddle the Kish in Marengo will keep you up-to-date about the state of the Millstream area. Sometimes paddling through a temporary channel will be possible, other times portaging might be the way to go. Here's hoping the Siems to Millstream water trail will be accessible. Check the Facebook page for up to date info before heading out.

The trail west of Hwy 23 in Marengo still needs clearing, but so much of it is ready for paddling. Since there is no road access between Hwy 23 and Thorne Rd, it is a day-long commitment for volunteers to clear that area, which will happen as soon as the water is warmer. Thorne to County Line Rd should be cleared, except for any recent treefalls. Again, check our Facebook page for recent updates. Remember, use ASGS Kishwaukee Marengo, or <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/05438170/#parameterCode=00060&period=P7D&showMedian=false> to check the current discharge rate. Depth is the default, but scroll down the page and click on Discharge. 70-700 is the safe zone for this McHenry County Kish section.

Happy and safe paddling, always with a buddy!



## THE ANNUAL USE IT AGAIN! GARAGE SALE BENEFITS THE DEFENDERS

Time to go through your cabinets, garage, attic and storage units to find donatable items. Clean them up and donate them to the Defenders so we can do more great things!

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; upholstered 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 (donation or disposal).

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

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

**SALE:** THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH 9AM-4PM. AND THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH 9AM-4 PM.

**CLEANUP:** SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH 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.

# POLLINATOR WEEK KICKOFF: CELEBRATING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN MCHENRY COUNTY- HOW MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGES ARE PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

BY CINDY SKRUKRUD, CHAIR OF WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION TEAM

6:15-8:15 pm (program begins at 7 pm), Tuesday, June 18

McHenry County College Luecht Auditorium

Featured talk- Pollinators in the Neighborhood- presented by Jack and Judy Speer of Small Waters Education

Panel Discussion- 2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledgers talk about their proudest moments helping monarchs



Pollinator Week is celebrated June 17-23. Here in McHenry County, a coalition of groups is kicking off a week of activities with a free and informational session at McHenry County College on Tuesday, June 18th. Starting at 6:15 pm, various local environmental, conservation and gardening groups and local units of government that signed the 2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledge will be tabling outside the auditorium. The evening's program will begin at 7pm with the featured talk- Pollinators in the Neighborhood- presented by Jack and Judy Speer of Small Waters Education of Alden. Small Waters Education is the local expert on working with schools and park districts to establish pollinator gardens. They will explain how creating habitats for "the little things that run the world" in our local communities is making our county a more beautiful and healthy place to live. Their presentation will explore how all of us can help the monarchs and other pollinators survive and thrive. Following the presentation, a panel of representatives of towns, townships and park districts that have taken the 2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledge will tell about what programs they are most proud of that they have undertaken to help monarchs in their town.

The rest of the week there are nine more talks, walks, self-guided tours, celebrations and stewardship events- all connected to understanding the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies and agriculture and how we can cultivate a world where both nature and humanity thrive in harmony. Day, evening, weekend and virtual events are scheduled. Check out the schedule of all the activities below, and find more information on them at <https://tinyurl.com/PollinatorWk2024>. Read more about Pollinator Week at [pollinator.org/pollinator-week](http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week)

## Wednesday, June 19

11:30am - 12:30pm TALK- Birds, Bees, and Butterflies: Plant Your Own Pollinator Garden! at Johnsborg Library: must register

1pm - 2:30pm STEWARDSHIP- Neighbors Helping Pollinators at Johnsborg Schools Pollinator Garden

7pm - 8:30pm TALK- Native and Natural Landscaping at PrairieView Education Center, Crystal Lake: must register

## Thursday, June 20

7pm - 8pm VIRTUAL TALK- Pollinators A Plenty: must register

## Friday, June 21

1pm -4pm STEWARDSHIP- Restoration Day & Pollinator Patrol at Boone Creek Conservation Area, Bull Valley: must register

## Saturday, June 22

10am -11:30am WALK- Nature Walk at Boloria Meadows Nature Preserve, Bull Valley: must register

## Sunday, June 23

1pm -4pm FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES- Pollinator Week Celebration at Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood

## All Week Long

WALK- self guided tour of the monarch gardens in Marengo and Union

WALK- self-guided tour of P.E.A.R.L. (Pocket Environments Animals Really Like) from yards to gardens to the 87-acre big PEARL of Hackmatack NWR Turner Tract, Genoa City, WI



# EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, April 20  
Noon – 4:00 p.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake

CO-SPONSORED BY:



*McHenry County*  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**environmental DEFENDERS**  
of McHenry County

**PARTNER BOOTHS/ CRAFTS/ EARTH-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES**

**GUIDED HIKES - 12:30PM & 2:30PM**

**PUPPET SHOWS - 1PM & 3PM**

**BRING YOUR OWN "NO WASTE" PICNIC LUNCH!**

**Clean-up of Boone Creek  
Saturday, April 27  
9-11am**

The City of McHenry, Boone-Dutch Creeks Watershed Alliance and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County invite you to join us for a litter cleanup on Boone Creek. This event will begin at 9 a.m. and we plan to be done by 11 a.m. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and boots and to park in the Public Works parking lot at 1415 Industrial Drive, 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 contact [boonedutch@gmail.com](mailto:boonedutch@gmail.com) or 815-687-0350. RSVPs are not needed but would be appreciated to the email and phone number listed so we can plan for refreshments and supplies. Invite a friend and come help us make a positive difference in our environment and enjoy time outdoors!



*Save THE Date*



## BIG FALL BOOK SALE

September 21 - October 5, 2023

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

More details to come closer to the date

### 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**

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### ABOUT EARTHCONNECT NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly by The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
LOC, ISSN# 1938-9795

110 S. Johnson St, Suite 106  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
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815-338-0393  
[www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

## April

### **SAT 20 | Earth Day Celebration**

Noon - 4pm  
Prairie View Education Center, Crystal Lake

### **TUE 23 | Clean Energy Incentives Session**

6pm - 7pm  
Crystal Lake Public Library

### **SAT 27 | Boon Creek Clean Up**

9am - 11am  
1415 Industrial Drive, McHenry

## May

### **SAT 11 | McHenry County Recycling Drive**

9am - noon  
Milkway Park, Harvard

## June

### **THURS 6 - SAT 8 | Use it Again Garage Sale**

9am - 4pm  
Algonquin Township Road District Garage B

### **THURS 13 - SAT 15 | Use it Again Garage Sale**

9am - 4pm  
Algonquin Township Road District Garage B

### **TUE 18 | Pollinator Week Kickoff**

6:15pm - 8:15pm  
McHenry County College Luecht Auditorium

### **SAT 22 | McHenry County Recycling Drive**

9am - noon  
Chesak Elementary School, Lake in the Hills

## 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

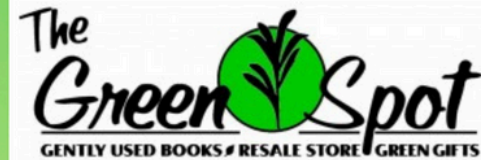
### **FOURTH SUN OF EVERY MONTH | Sterne's Fen Restoration Work Day**

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 Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Closed Sunday  
815-527-7122  
110 S. Johnson Street, Woodstock, IL



Open Monday - Saturday from 10am - 5pm  
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.

## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



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