

## News from the MCSEEP Director

February 2012



*Hello! I hope all of you are enjoying the spring like weather we are having. Spring Break is just around the corner.*

*We were able to pilot our new high school Green Careers lesson this week at Crystal Lake Central HS. We thought it went very well and are ready to offer it to all McHenry County high schools. It would be perfect to target the sophomore/junior age group, so they still have time to pursue a career path in one of the many green career sectors. We introduce them to a few, and give them other resources to explore. More information will follow. Call our office to schedule a class/classes at 815-334-4054.*

*I will be sending out the letters next week for your school to participate in the Earth Flag Ceremony for Earth Day 2012 held at Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd., Crystal Lake from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 21st. The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. in the barn and you will need to have your form filled out by the March 5th due date in order to participate. Flags are given to schools that have never received one, and a set of environmental books are awarded to schools that have already received a flag. Our MCSEEP teachers will be present once again to work with children on craft projects, which has always been a favorite event for them. Also at this event will be live music, puppet shows, guided nature hikes, ways to earn an Earth Day 2012 patch, games, crafts, storytelling, environmental exhibitors, food and beverage, and a household recycling drop-off. Hope to see you all there!*

*The following municipalities will once again be assisting with the payment of MCSEEP lessons for the 2012-13 school year for their schools: Fox River Grove, Woodstock, McHenry Township, Crystal Lake, Spring Grove, and Johnsburg. The other schools that participate have found ways to pay for their lessons and their feedback tells me that they value our lessons. We continue to rewrite and update lessons each year. ...Sue*

### Current Events

- **Volo Bog seeks adult volunteers** - training for weekend docents in Feb.—call Stacy Iwanicki for applications and to register for training at 815-344-1294
- **IDNR Earth Day in the Parks**—The 2012 Earth Day in the parks program from the IDNR is a natural resources stewardship event for students held at participating IL state parks. Grants help to fund this event. Complete your application by Feb. 28, 2012 at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm>
- **MCCD needs volunteers for Festival of the Sugar Maples**—Feb. 27-Mar. 11, volunteers will be needed at Coral Woods Conservation Area. Training is scheduled for 9-noon Feb. 25th. Free tours will be offered for school groups. Public tours will be given 10 a.m.-3 p.m. March 3rd and 4th and March 10th and 11th. Call 815-338-6223.
- **MCCD Lost Valley Visitor Center**—located in Glacial Park, has family exploration program including a nature lesson, game & activity based around the month's topic. Feb. the topic is coyotes. This program is for families but you can call 815-479-5779 if you have a youth group that would like to schedule a program.
- **Earth Day at MCCD**—reserve the date of Sat., Apr. 21st, from 11 a.m.– 4 p.m. for a fun filled day with your family at the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd, Crystal Lake. More detailed information in in the Director's news.
- **Spring Break Day for Children at MCCD**—March 31st from 1 p.m. –4 p.m. at the Prairieview Education Center will be a day filled with refreshments, outdoor activities, games, crafts and more.
- **Coral Woods, Marengo**—April 29th, from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. will be a celebration of wildflowers and art. There will be children's outdoor art studio, wildflower seed planting, build a flower craft station, hikes, storytelling, food, music and more.
- **McHenry/Woodstock Recycling Drives**— Woodstock drives are held the 2nd Sat. of each EVEN numbered month and is held in front of the Farm Bureau, 1102 McConnell Rd. from 9 a.m.-noon. The next drive is held Sat., Feb. 11th. **McHenry** drives take place on the 2nd Sat. of ODD numbered months at the Metra Station Parking lot, 4005 Main St. from 9 a.m.-noon. McHenry site will pay for aluminum, brass and copper. Items collected are: fluorescent tubes, rechargeable batteries, car batteries, button batteries, and block white Styrofoam. Packing peanuts and reusable bubble wrap may be dropped off for no charge. Certain items require a donation to the Defenders. Call to check.
- **Styrofoam Drop-off**—The Village of Lakewood is taking Styrofoam at their Village Hall and Public Works garage.

## LESSON LIBRARY

Our library continues to grow as we add articles and an assortment of unique environmental resources. The feedback from teachers who used our library in the past has been so positive—thank you for your support!

We will be offering the Lesson Library to any school in McHenry County and you can join by clicking on the link on the main page of our [MCSEEP.com](http://MCSEEP.com) website and filling out and returning the lending agreement. If your school currently has MCSEEP lessons, you can start using our Lesson Library, as payment is included in the lesson fee that your school has to pay. Check out the website to see some samples of lesson units that are available for check out.

Remember, we're here for you—please keep us busy and order your Lesson Library resources today! Email: [mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us)

### *Making Your 2012 Energy-Efficiency Plan*

Here are a couple things you can do to save energy at your home:

- Install a clock-programmable thermostat. By doing so you can lower your heating and cooling bills by up to \$104 a year by setting the temperature back (or up in summer) by 10 degrees for 8 hrs. every day.
- Replace your 5 most-used light bulbs with CFL's. You can save about \$65 a year since they use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. It will not reduce your water pressure and a family of 4 can save up to \$250 a year in water and water heating costs.
- Wrap your water heater with a water heater insulation wrap. You can expect to save up to 9% in water heating costs.

MCSEEP, Planning and Development  
2200 N. Seminary Ave.  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
Phone: 815-334-4054  
Email: [slburke@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:slburke@co.mchenry.il.us)

### Current Events (cont.)

- **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** - ReStore is a re-use center for building materials located at 800 North State St. in Elgin. Their hours are Wed.-Fri. from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Homeowners can donate surplus items (tax deductible). Call first before delivering items that may not be acceptable. (847) 742-9905.
- **YERT—Your Environmental Road Trip**—Free movie screening documentary on Wed., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. at Woodstock High School Auditorium, 501 W. South St., Woodstock. A story of 3 friends traveling America with hope, humor and all of their garbage looking for innovators and courageous citizens tackling environmental crises.
- **Wildflower Preservation & Propagation Committee of McHenry County**—Natural Landscaping Seminar held at MCC, Feb. 25, 2012 from 8 a.m. -3 p.m.
- **Green Drinks**—gathers the first Wednesday of every month upstairs at Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen, 110 N. Main St., Crystal Lake, IL from 5 -7 p.m. Come talk about “greening” the future with others. Bring any information about your green products and services to share. A new topic each month!
- **MCC Continuing Education offers Exploring Local Food Workshops**—There will be 6 workshops offered in the months of Feb. and March. See MCSEEP's main webpage & click on link for details.
- **Defender's Winter Book Sale**—Woodstock Square Mall Building downstairs, Feb. 1-4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Ace Hardware and Home Depot recycle CFL bulbs**—compact only, no tubes. No charge.
- **Defender's “The Lorax” movie field trip**—tentatively set for March 14
- **Planning & Designing the Transition to a Native Landscape**—by Wild Ones Lake to Prairie group, Tues., Feb. 7th, 7:15 p.m. <http://www.wildones.org/chapters/lake2prairie/>
- **Natural Landscaping Seminar**—Wildflower Preservation & Propagation Committee—Sat., Feb. 25th, 8 a.m.—3 p.m. at MCC <http://www.thewppc.org/Forms/LandscapeSeminar.pdf>
- **2012 Illinois Electronics Summit: Perspectives on the Landfill Ban & Recycling Opportunities**—co-sponsored by the IEPA & IL Counties Solid Waste Management Assoc., Thurs., Mar. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Northfield Inn, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL. Registration fee: \$35. [www.ilcswma.org/training](http://www.ilcswma.org/training)