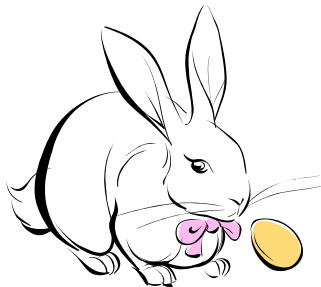


April 2011

News from the MCSEEP Director



Here it is already April, with only a little over a month of school left. I hope that those of you that had our MCSEEP lessons enjoyed them and that your students have learned some valuable tools to help them lead more sustainable lives. I will be seeing some of you at the Earth Day Celebration at Prairiewood Nature Center on April 30th, and look forward to presenting you with your awards. Please check out all the current events listed, and watch for the posting of our June date and flyer that will be in your mailboxes next month letting your know about the Lesson Library workshop that will be taking place, offering 3 CPDU's. The proposed date is June 15, but that may change.

Happy Spring...

Sue

Current Events

ENTICE Workshop Registration—Register soon for ENTICE (Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from the IDNR. Visit: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> and enroll now. You won't want to miss the background information, supplemental resources, networking with other educators and opportunity to work with natural resources professionals. CPDU's are available to all ENTICE participants. Upcoming workshops are listed below:

Apr. 30, 2011, *Prairie School Gardening, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe*; May 21, 2011, *Illinois Butterflies, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago*; June 18, 2011, *Identifying Trees and Making Leaf Collections, The Morton Arboretum, Chicago*.

Free Teacher Training Session from Seven Generations Ahead—Seven Generations Ahead is an Oak Park, IL based non-profit whose mission is to promote ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. Using a fun, and hands-on approach to learning, *Fresh from the Farm* threads together ecology, healthy eating, organics, and local farming through year-round curriculum lessons and activities. Some of the curriculum activities include: local organic farm tours, school-based composting, and classroom food tastings and curriculum lessons. For registration or more information, email or phone Emily Doering at Emily.doering@illinois.gov or 312-814-7098. Here is the next date for the upcoming session:

- May 18, 19, 21—Chicagoland—TBD

Algonquin Township Highway Dept. is now accepting electronic items at their "Limited Electronics Recycling" bin at their recycling center site, located at 3702 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake. They will be open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for drop-off. The accepted items are as follows: Computers and Computer Components, Printers, Faxes, Scanners, Monitors, TV's, DVD's, Stereos, VCR's, Video Game Consoles, PDA's, Cell Phones, Phones, MP3's and iPods. This is open to residents of Algonquin Township. There is no charge for any of these items!

Midwest Organics Recycling— is producing a high quality compost as a substitute to chemical lawn fertilizers. It is called "*Organimix*" and it is odor free, pathogen free, weed seed free and is an environmentally friendly solution to chemical fertilizers that "green" homeowners request. Go to: www.compostmatters.com for more information.

McHenry County College will be hosting their 2nd annual spring 2011 Speaker Series. There will be thought-provoking discussion and debate about one of the hottest issues today—the drive for green. Explore the definition of green, as well as hear multiple perspectives on how to "green" your homes and business. Free admission to all sessions. All sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the MCC Conference Center. The following are what sessions are still available:

- Tuesday, April 26, 2011—Green Debate with area leaders
- Saturday, April 30, 2011—Tour of the Center for Green Technology in Chicago (tour and transportation fees may apply)

MCC Speaker Series: Green Debate—April 26, 6-7:30 p.m., MCC Conference Center. Attend a debate among local community and business leaders focused on the hottest and most controversial topics in green technology. www.mchenry.edu/green

LESSON LIBRARY

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

Looking ahead, we've started planning for next year and are excited to share that Siemens has agreed to fund us for the 2011/2012 school year. We are so thankful for their generosity, especially in these very trying economic times. In June, we will be offering a free teacher workshop on how to best utilize the resources in our library. Once again, we will be offering 3 CPDU's for those attending. Registration information will be available in May. We're confident you'll enjoy your morning with us as you explore ways to enrich your curriculum. Please set aside the date of June 22 from 8:30—11:30 a.m. It will be held at the Administration Building in Woodstock. Details to follow.

Remember, we're here for you—please keep us busy!
Email: mcseep@co.mchenry.il.us



Conley Elementary School in Algonquin joined with Abitibi-Bowater to help save the Earth one piece of paper at a time. During the month of March, a paper drive took place every Friday at their school. Conley students were hoping to acquire 2 tons of paper during this month-long collection. Good job Conley!!! Hope you met your goal.

Has your school done something or is planning to do something this year to “go green”? If so, we want to know about it! Give Sue Burke a call with MCSEEP at 815-334-4054 or email her at: sburke@co.mchenry.il.us so your school can get recognized in the next “School Spotlight” newsletter column.

Current Events (continued):

Youth Conservation Congress 2011—The IDNR is hosting the 2nd annual Youth Conservation Congress on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at Brookfield Zoo. Participation will be awarded to conservation-related school and youth groups in Illinois. Students must be enrolled in an Illinois High School during the 2011-10 school year. A maximum of 2 group leaders and 5 students may register from each organization. Students and leaders will have the opportunity to showcase their achievements as well as learn about many youth-related conservation activities. Apply online at: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/nrab/ycc.htm>. A 500 word paper outlining the group's conservation achievements is required to apply. Questions? Call 217-524-4126.

Illinois Birds: Volume I, Raptors Poster—Order your copy of this poster from the IDNR and the Illinois Audubon Society. This 24” x 36” poster depicts 24 species of hawks and owls, showing most of them in both perched and silhouette views. The back contains information about the species and their adaptations. Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids> to place your order today!

Illinois Birds and One Bird—Two Habitat Lessons—This is from the IDNR and has been revised. You can access them at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/birds/index.htm>. For grades 4-8, these lessons can help students understand and gain interest in birds.

U of I's Extension Four Seasons Gardening Program—“The Summer Vegetable Garden” is set for April 28 and “Invasive Trees and Shrubs” will be held May 12. The cost per session is \$5. Registration can be done online at www.extension.illinois.edu/mchenry or call 815-338-3737.

Electronics Collection—Crystal Lake, Living Waters Church, 1808 Miller Rd. ,9 a.m.-noon (815) 455-2424.

CED 3rd Annual Energy Expo—April 21, 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m. 171 E. Erick St., Crystal Lake. Demonstration of LED lighting and CFL light bulbs. Free BBQ and drinks and t-shirts. (815) 455-7020.

Movie Premiere:Green Fire! April 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m. This movie introduces us to the famed conservationist and writer Aldo Leopold. It frames his life in historical context of the American environmental movement, while tracing his legacy through conservation projects today. Register by calling (815) 338-6223 or go to www.mccdistrict.org.

“Celebrate the Earth” on April 30

This year’s Earth Day celebration will be held at the Prairieview Nature Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Exhibitors and activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schools that have completed their Earth Flag applications will be receiving either an Earth Flag or an environmental book set award at the 1:00 p.m. ceremony to be held in the barn. Eleven schools will be participating this year.

The event will have the following:

- Held indoors & out—will go rain or shine
- Live music - OFF Square music and more
- Puppet show—12:30 and 2:30
- Guided Nature Hike—11:30 and 2:30
- Help out on a restoration service project
- Games and storytelling
- Craft projects for children-led by our MCSEEP teachers!
- Food and beverage vendors or bring a no-waste picnic lunch
- Household recycling drop-off including athletic shoes, batteries, computer monitors. (possible drop-off fees)

Green Guide—This publication has a wealth of information on where to recycle items, and much more. To get an online version of this guide you can go to:

<http://www.mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf>

On April 29, the 2011 edition will be published as an insert in the Northwest Herald.

Earth911.com

This website lets you find recycling centers for a specific item that you want. You just need to type in your zip code and it will give you a location to recycle your item that is closest to where you live.

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Current Events-(Continued)

Illinois Invasive Species Awareness

Month—May is Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month. If you are planning an event to educate the public about any invasive species in the state, please visit the following site and register your event.

<http://www.illinoisinvasives.org/>

Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park

Every Saturday in from 2 to 3:30 p.m., they will having a family exploration program that will include a nature lesson, game and activity based around the month’s topic. In April, the topic will be *signs of spring*, and in May, *nesting time*. The Lost Valley Visitor Center is located just west of Route 31 and Harts Road intersection, north of Ringwood.

MCCD’s Visitor Center demonstrates the latest in green technologies, including geothermal heating and cooling, permeable pavers, rain gardens, natural daylight, harvesting and more.

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.

Earth Day movie—“How to Boil a Frog: Make Friends, Make Fun, Make Trouble”. A movie about saving civilization with comedy. 7 p.m., April 29, Woodstock High School auditorium, 501 South St.

National Drug Take-Back Day— Saturday, April 30th, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Find a collection site near you at:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

Groundwater Protection Sustainability in the Face of Development

—May 2, County Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Registration available @ www.delta-institute.org
Cost is \$15, which includes lunch.