

## News from the MCSEEP Director

August/September 2012



### New Face in the office Hello!

*I'm so delighted to be part of MCSEEP. My name is Bethany Gola. I live in Lake in the Hills with my husband, Walt, who is a teacher at South Elgin High School, and our kids Joe 6, Mia 4 and Tom 2. Prior to this job I managed my art business for*

*10+ years. I also continue to serve as chairperson of my church's green team. Our church was recently honored to receive the McHenry County Green Award for our community activities. Environmental stewardship has been an important part of my life since I was a child. It is the way I grew up and live each day. Did I ever think I would have a job working to share the message with you—no! That's the interesting part of each of our journeys isn't it? You never quite know where all your skills and interests will take you. Just be open and explore! I'm looking forward to working with each of you discovering what you love about MCSEEP and how we can continue to make the program meaningful for your students.*

**Youth Ground Water Festival**—This project literally fell into our lap! The county water resource manager was in the process of putting together a Youth Ground Water Festival (YGWF) modeled after the Rock Valley College YGWF when she accepted a job elsewhere. Upon her request and that of Dennis Sandquist, director of the County Department of Planning and Development, MCSEEP was asked to adopt the project. Of course we said, "yes" when we heard of the amazing experts who are ready to help at the event.

With the support of the Rock Valley group serving as our mentors, we are excited to present this program to 6 six-grade classes on October 17th at the beautiful Loyola University Retreat Center and Ecology Campus in Woodstock. Why 6? We wanted to start with a smaller group and offer transportation stipends to get this year off to a good start. Hopefully, after a good turn out and successful event this year we will offer this workshop to more students next year.

continued

### Current Events

- **CALLING ALL FLIP FLOPS**—a company called Okabashi has started recycling flip flops and saving them from years in landfills or oceans. Consider buying next years "Flippers" from them. Visit [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [okabashi.com](http://okabashi.com)
- **There's an App for that Local Green Guide** McHenry County's Recycling and Reusing Directory and Green Guide features an iRecycle app at [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) It's FREE
- **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 **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.
- **Register for ENTICE workshops from IDNR:** These workshops offer background information, hands-on activities, lessons, supplemental resources, CPDU's and opportunity to work with natural resource professionals. Check website for workshop titles and dates: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> One course this September is titled **Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Development**
- **MCCD hosts annual Trail of History** If you've never gone, make this year your first. Located at the Glacial Park 6316 Harts Rd. Ringwood. October 20&21 9 a.m.-4 p.m. check out [mccd.district.org](http://mccd.district.org) for detailed information.
- **Check out our Website:** We have two new links right on the home page of our site. "Community Partners" has a list of the different organizations that MCSEEP keeps in close touch to update you with their events, news, etc. The second link is "Teacher Connections" which lists what's going on in different classrooms around the county, classroom ideas, etc. some of these are newspaper articles and some are word of mouth—so share with us YOUR news!



Community Partners



Teacher Connections

*Continued from page 1 Youth Groundwater Festival*

*We have some interesting and interactive stations for students to really get a feel for ground water and why it is so important to protect it. The educators presenting are top notch and are looking forward to working with the students.*

*Make sure to take a look at the flier included in your recycling coordinator/principal letter from MCSEEP.*

**Speaking of Loyola. . . And Johnsburg Junior High -**  
*Both of these schools have implemented a bottled water ban and a new “hydration station”. Congratulations to Johnsburg Junior High School Green Team for tackling the plastic water bottle addiction. They have purchased water refill stations for students to refill there reusable water bottles.*

*Loyola’s Student Environmental Alliance has phased out bottled water from campus stores, catering and vending machines. They have detailed impacts of water privatization and bottled water. Here are a few:*

- *The appropriation of public water supplies by private entities raises social justice concerns when local users are displaced and public resources become a commodity.*
- *Selling water becomes a commodity that the poor cannot afford.*
- *Bottling plants can adversely affect local water supplies and can deplete underground aquifers.*
- *Roughly 1.5 million tons of plastic are used in bottling 89 billion liters of water each year*
- *People spend 240 to 1000+ percent more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water.*

*Check out more at  
[www.luc.edu/sustainability/refill.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/sustainability/refill.shtml)*

*Consider the drought we are experiencing as a lesson in valuing our precious resource—water!*

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## LESSON LIBRARY

We are looking to help get these fantastic materials into your classrooms! We are considering offering “boxed units” that would travel to your schools—we are in the planning stages so if you have any suggestions please let us know. If you’ve checked out materials in the past, you know how cool they are. Pass the word and tell your teacher friends!

The Lesson Library is available to any school in McHenry County (even if you do not have a MCSEEP at your school) Schools 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 use our Lesson Library freely, as payment is included in the lesson fee that your school pays. Check out the website to see some samples of lesson units that are available for check out.

## The MCSEEP TEAM

**Karen Dombrowski**—fearless WORM composter extraordinaire! Karen has been teaching with MCSEEP since 1992! She never tires of sharing the message.

**Carolyn Sullivan**—enjoys pushing her “classroom on the cart” into your classroom where she is always greeted with inquisitive and excited students ready to hear what she will share with them today! Carolyn is great MCSEEP face to meet!

**Larry Fischer**— recently retired from his own science classroom, Larry couldn’t stay away from teaching. We’re grateful to have him in the classrooms as a MCSEEP instructor and in the office helping serve as education specialist and liaison between the MCSEEP desk and the classroom.

**Bethany Gola**—serving as your coordinator. I am genuinely interested in aligning people’s passion with what they do. Let me know how MCSEEP can support your passion for teaching in the classroom!